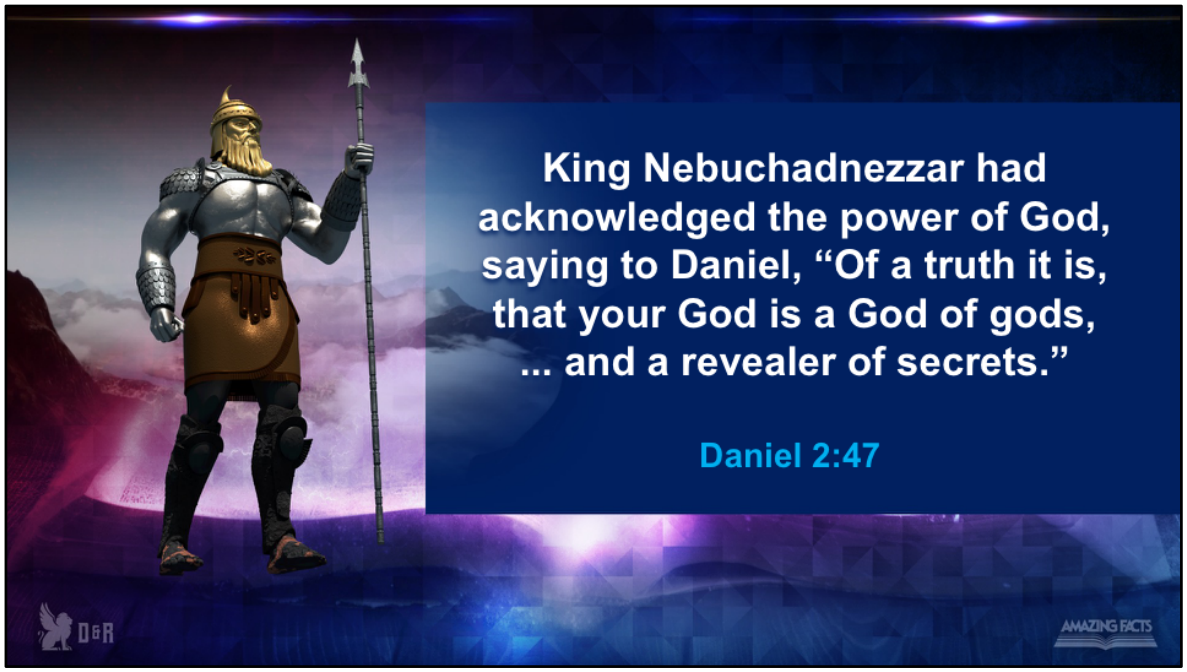

AMAZING FACTS
PRESENTS
THE
PROPHECIES
OF DANIEL & REVELATION


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PRESENTS
Bowing to the Beast

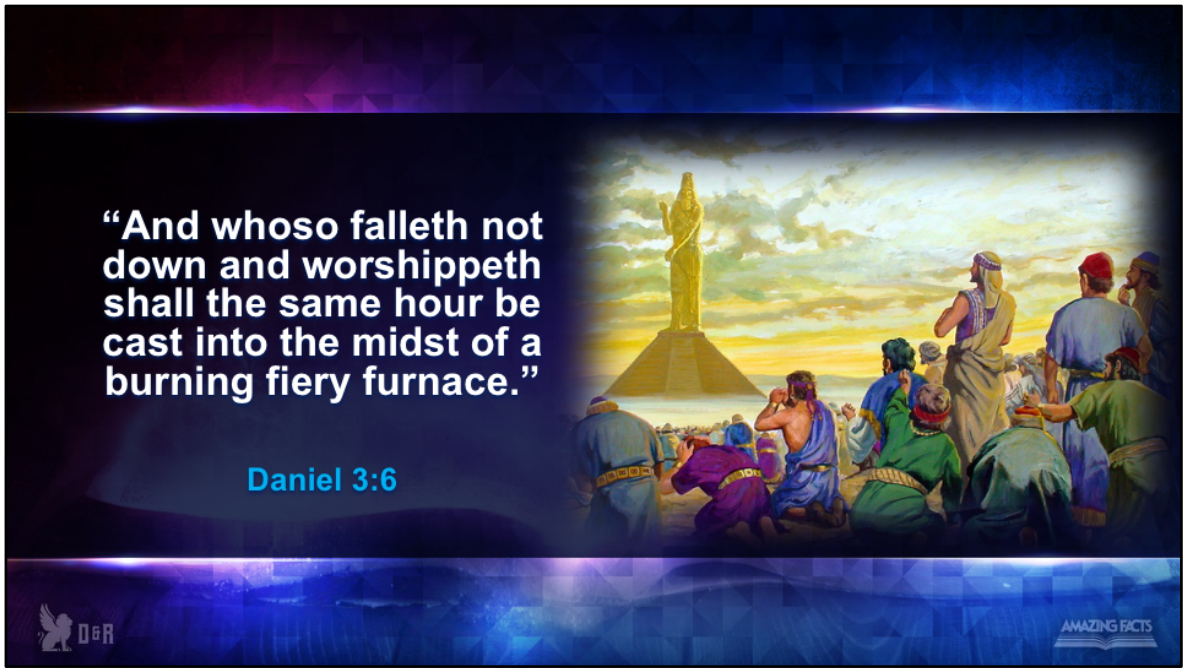

King Nebuchadnezzar had acknowledged the power of God, saying to Daniel, “Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, ... and a revealer of secrets.”
Daniel 2:47
D&R
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The words, “Thou art this head of gold,” had made a deep impression upon the ruler's mind (Daniel 2:38). The wise men of his realm, taking advantage of this and of his return to idolatry, proposed that he make an image similar to the one seen in his dream, and set it up where all might behold the head of gold, which had been interpreted as representing his kingdom.



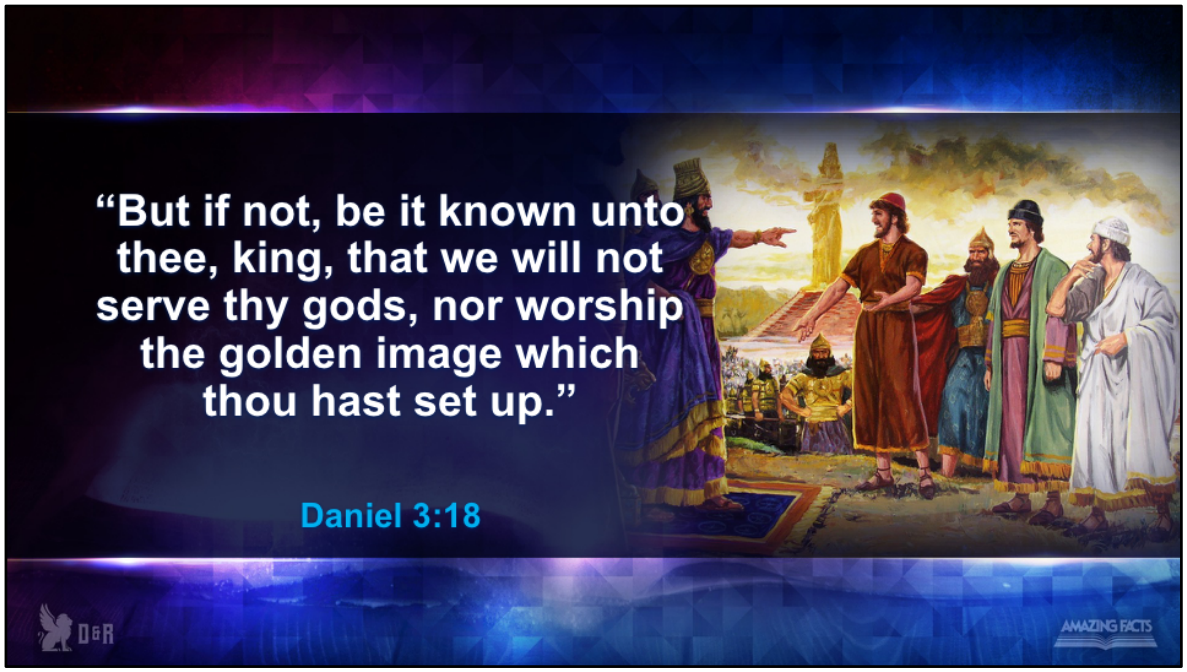
Pleased with the flattering suggestion, he determined to carry it out, and to go even farther. Instead of reproducing the image as he had seen it, he would excel the original. His image should not deteriorate in value from the head to the feet, but should be entirely of gold—symbolic throughout of Babylon as an eternal, indestructible, all-powerful kingdom, which should break in pieces all other kingdoms and stand forever.



The decree was made and we can read about it in Daniel 3:6.



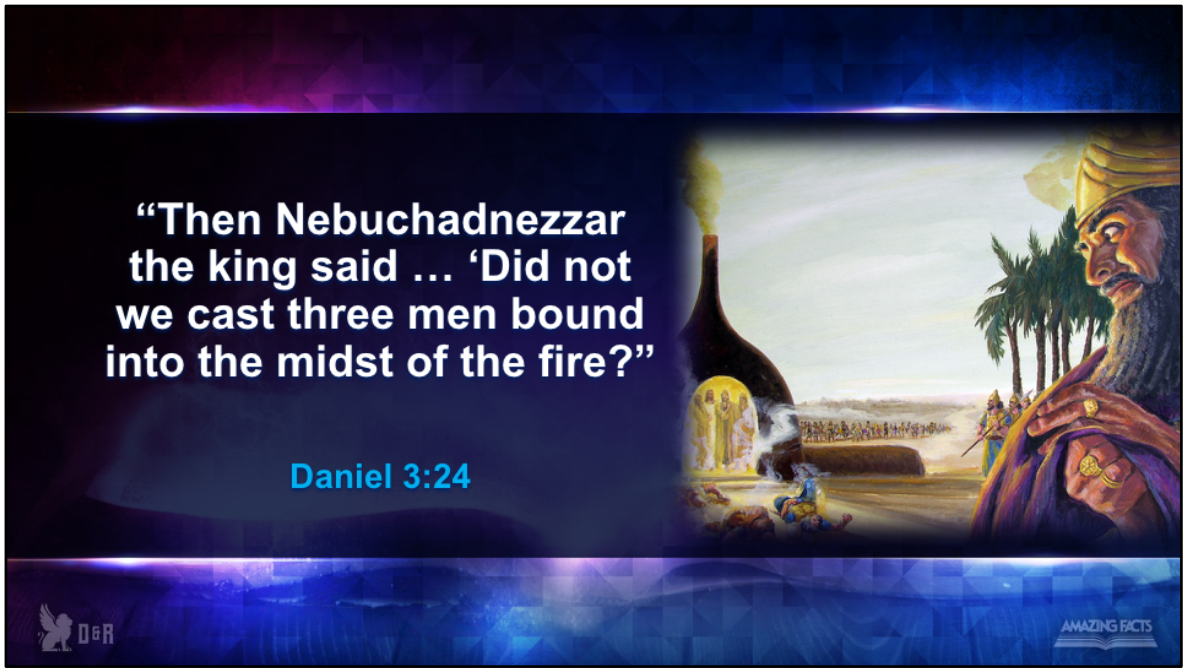
King Nebuchadnezzar gave the signal, and as the music from a thousand instruments began to swell, the curtain fell, exposing a dazzling, 90-foot image of gold glimmering in the sunlight. Then, according to King's command, all the officials who had gathered on the plain of Dura fell prostrate to the ground in devout worship. All bowed down except three young Hebrew men, who were servants of a greater King.



As the king peered into the roaring furnace, his mouth suddenly fell open. With a trembling voice he asked, "Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?" His counselors agreed that they had. Then the king said, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God." Daniel 3:25.

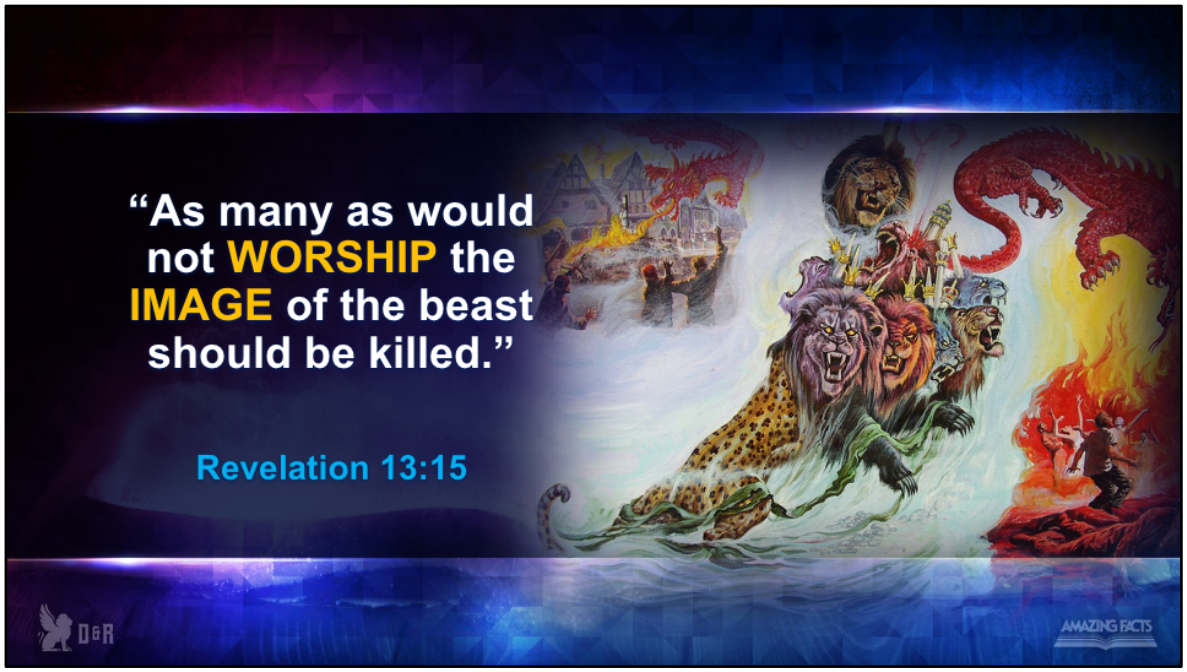
God delivered those brave young men in the fiery furnace because they stood up for His truth. In the last days, God's people will have to face a similar test.


“Then these men were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.”
Daniel 3:21
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"Then Nebuchadnezzar the king said … 'Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?"
Daniel 3:24
D&R
AMAZING FACTS

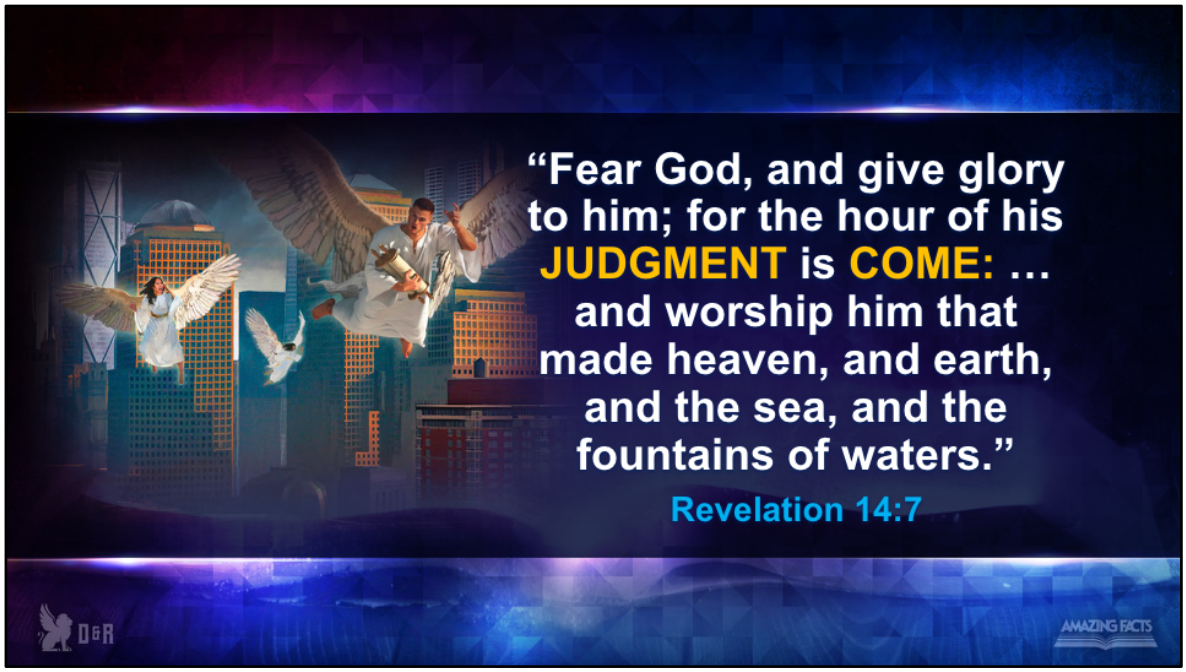

"I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and … the form of the fourth is like the Son of God."
Daniel 3:25
D&R
AMAZING FACTS

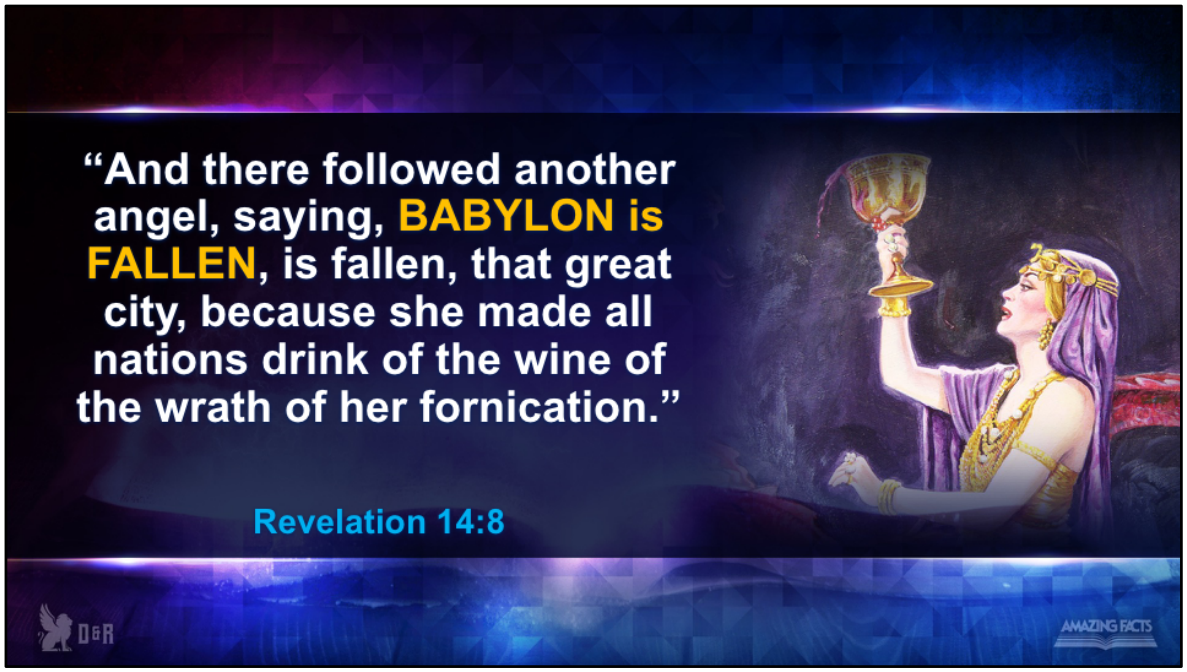

1. How does our story in Daniel 3 relate to Revelation?
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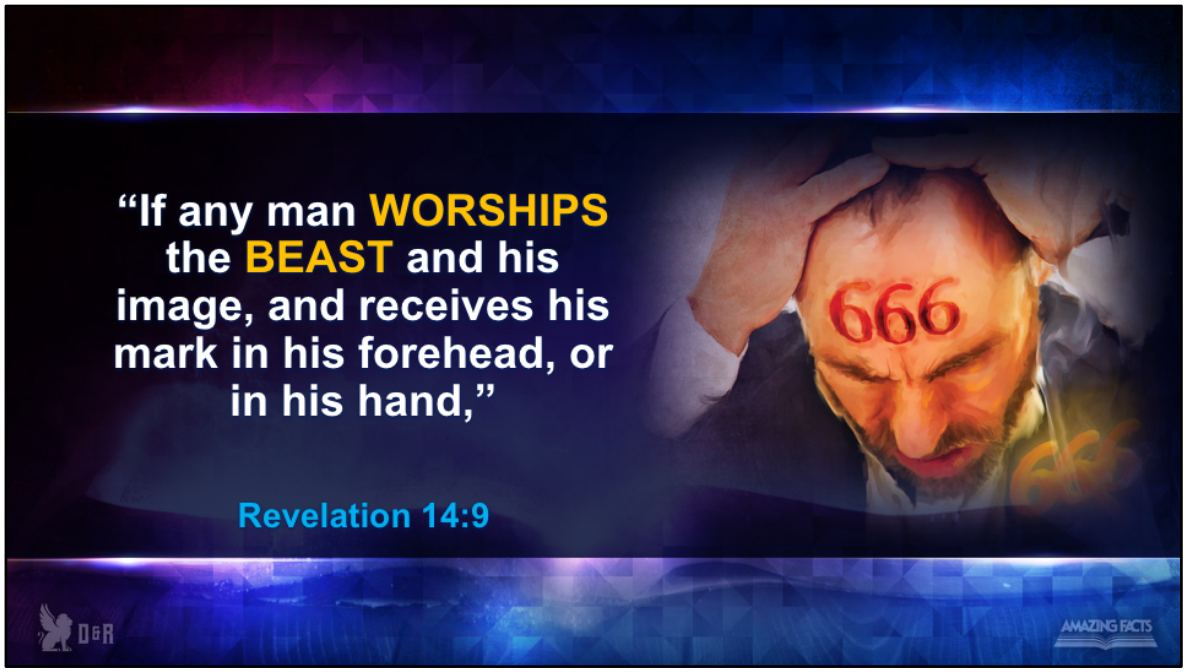


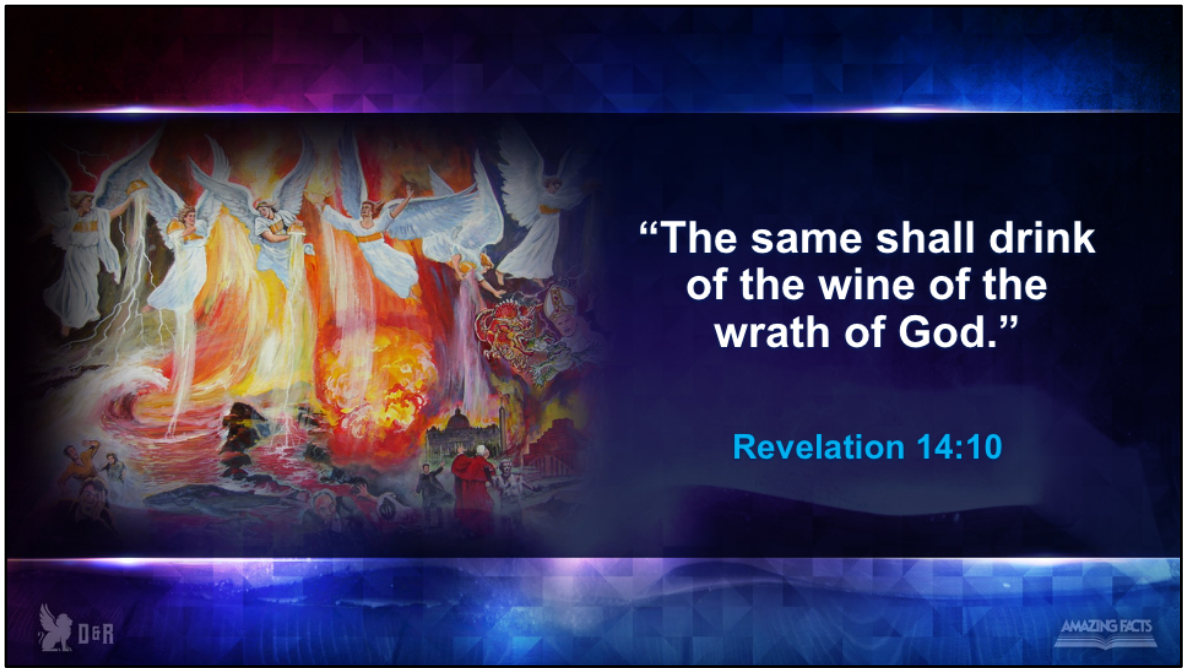
NOTE:
In the last days, God's people will be forced once again to worship contrary to conscience or be slain. They will have to choose between obeying the law of God or the laws of man.


2. What are the three angels' messages of Revelation 14?
D&R
AMAZING FACTS


"Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his JUDGMENT is COME: … and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters."
Revelation 14:7
D&R
AMAZING FACTS


"And there followed another angel, saying, BABYLON is FALLEN, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."
Revelation 14:8
D&R
AMAZING FACTS


"If any man WORSHIPS the BEAST and his image, and receives his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,"
Revelation 14:9
666
D&R
AMAZING FACTS

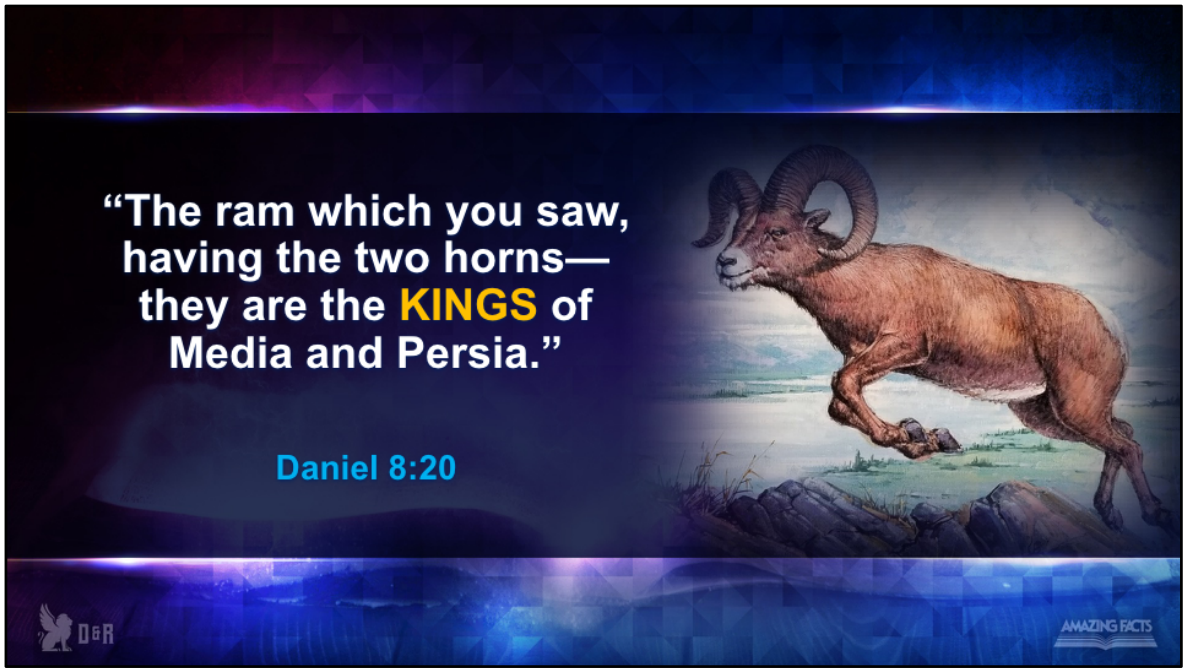


NOTE:
The Bible tells us in Revelation 14:6-14 that in the last days, this awesome three-point message of hope and warning will go to the entire world to prepare people for Jesus' return. One of these messages warns against worshipping the beast and receiving its mark. In this lesson, we will identify the beast. In Lesson 14, we will identify the mark. Eternal life itself may be at stake, so pray earnestly for God's guidance and understanding as you study.


3. What does a beast represent in Bible prophecies?
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"These great BEASTS, which are four, are four KINGS."
Daniel 7:17
D&R
AMAZING FACTS

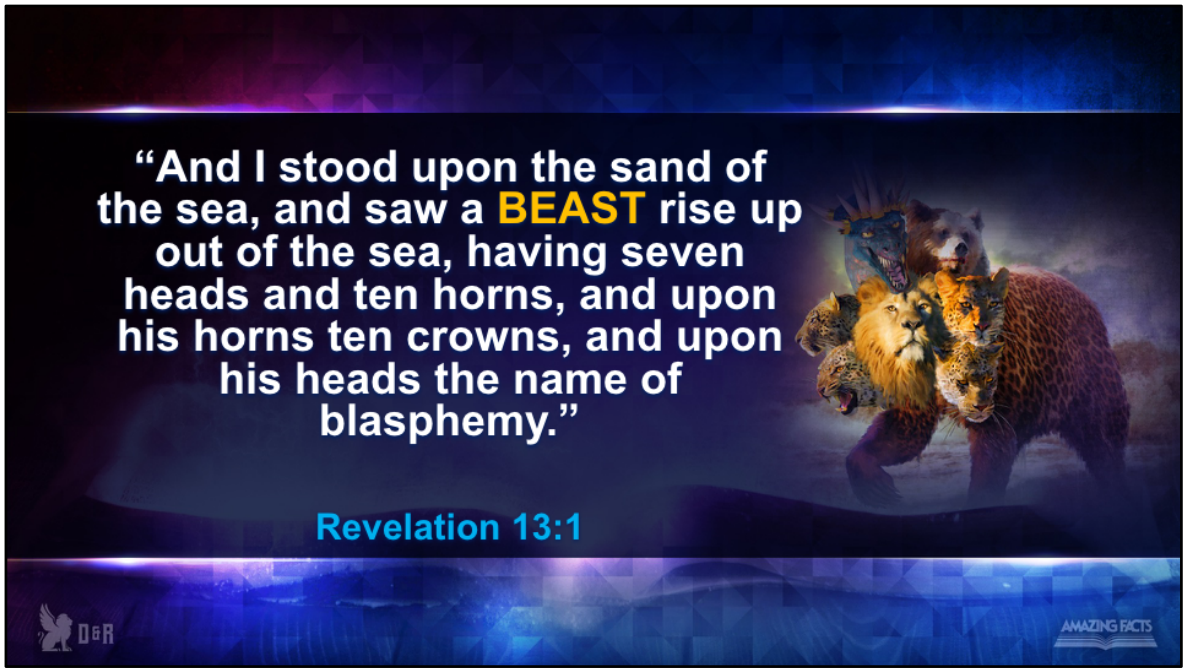

"The fourth beast shall be the fourth KINGDOM upon earth."
Daniel 7:23
D&R
AMAZING FACTS

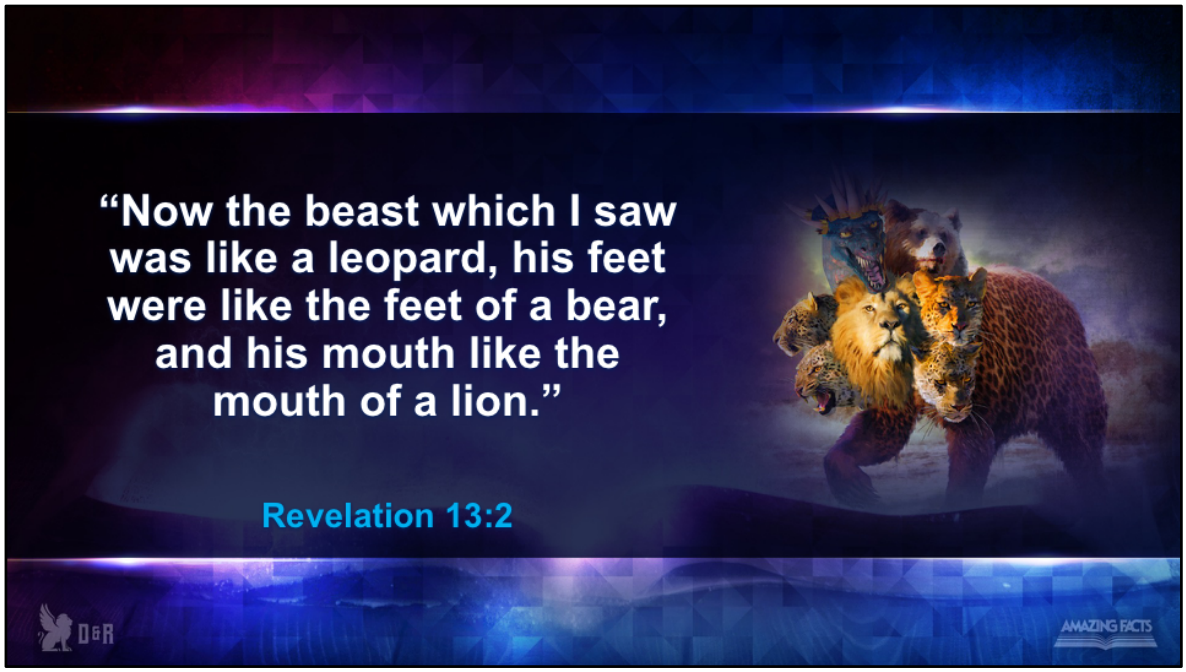

"The ram which you saw, having the two horns— they are the KINGS of Media and Persia."
Daniel 8:20
D&R
AMAZING FACTS



NOTE:
In Bible prophecy, a beast represents a government, kingdom, or political power. God uses beasts to symbolize governments, as we do today--an eagle (the United States of America), a bear (Russia), etc. In the Bible, "beast" is not a disrespectful term. It does not suggest beastly characteristics. The beast that has the mark is pictured in Revelation 13:1-10, 15-18. Please take time to read these verses before proceeding to question 4.

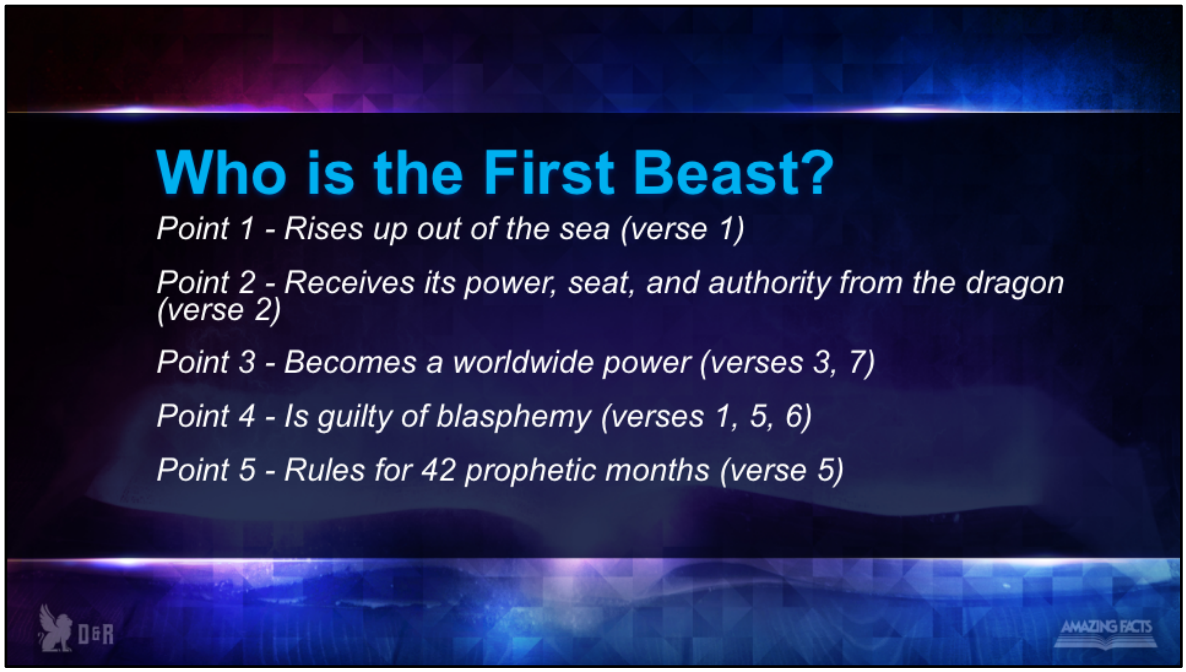

4. How does the Bible identify the beast?
D&R
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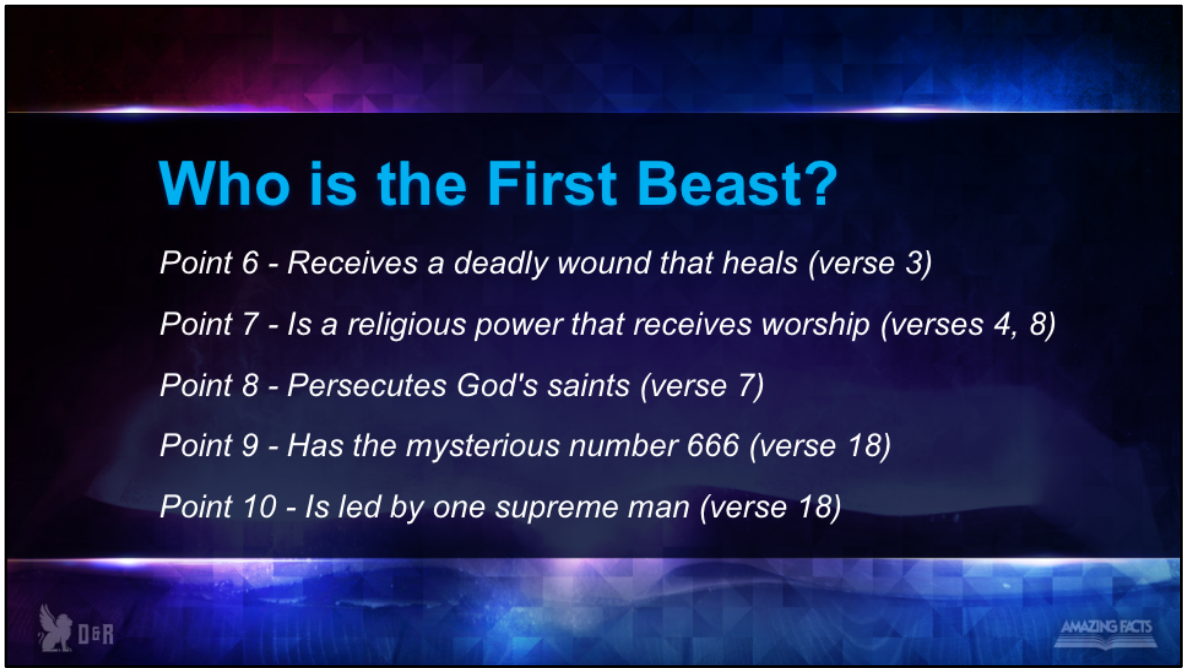

"And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a BEAST rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy."
Revelation 13:1
D&R
AMAZING FACTS



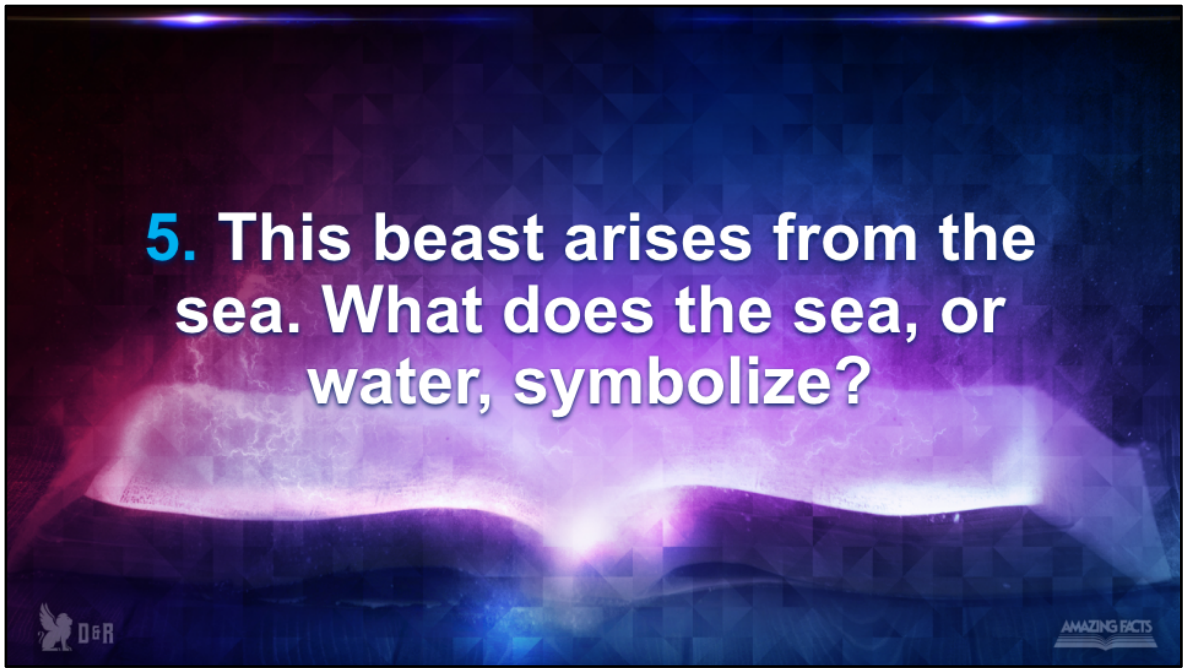
NOTE:

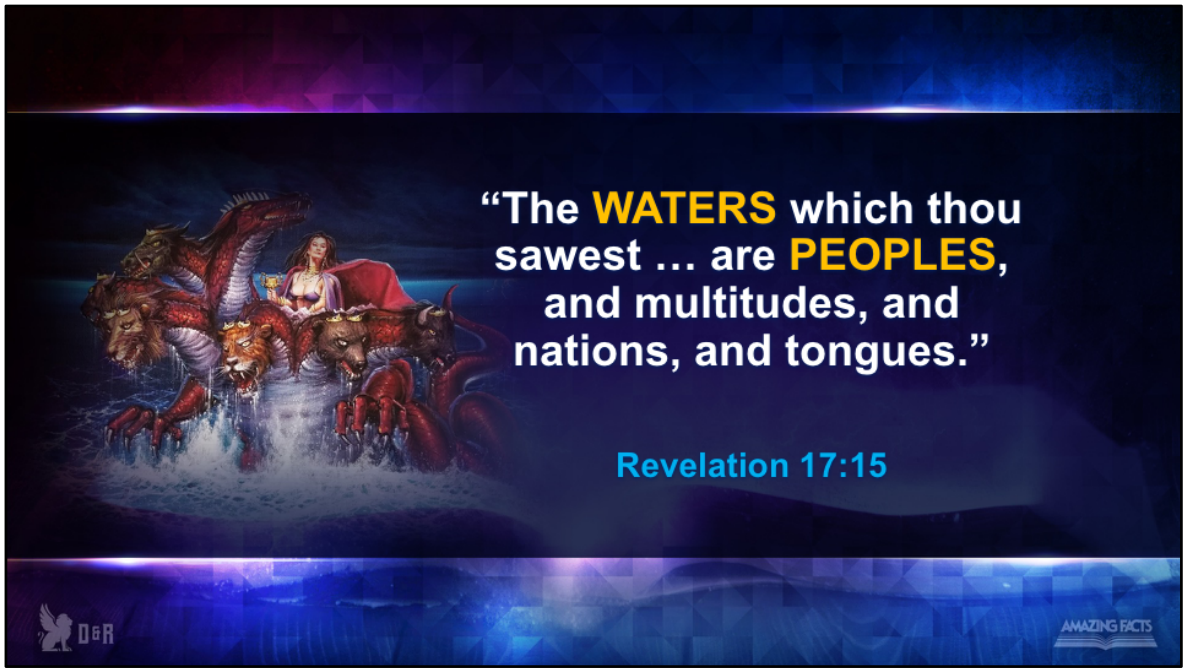
In Revelation 13:1-10, 15-18, God gives 10 clues to help us identify the beast. He gives us a long list of characteristics so that we can be absolutely certain of the beast's identity.


Who is the First Beast?
Point 1 - Rises up out of the sea (verse 1)
Point 2 - Receives its power, seat, and authority from the dragon (verse 2)
Point 3 - Becomes a worldwide power (verses 3, 7)
Point 4 - Is guilty of blasphemy (verses 1, 5, 6)
Point 5 - Rules for 42 prophetic months (verse 5)
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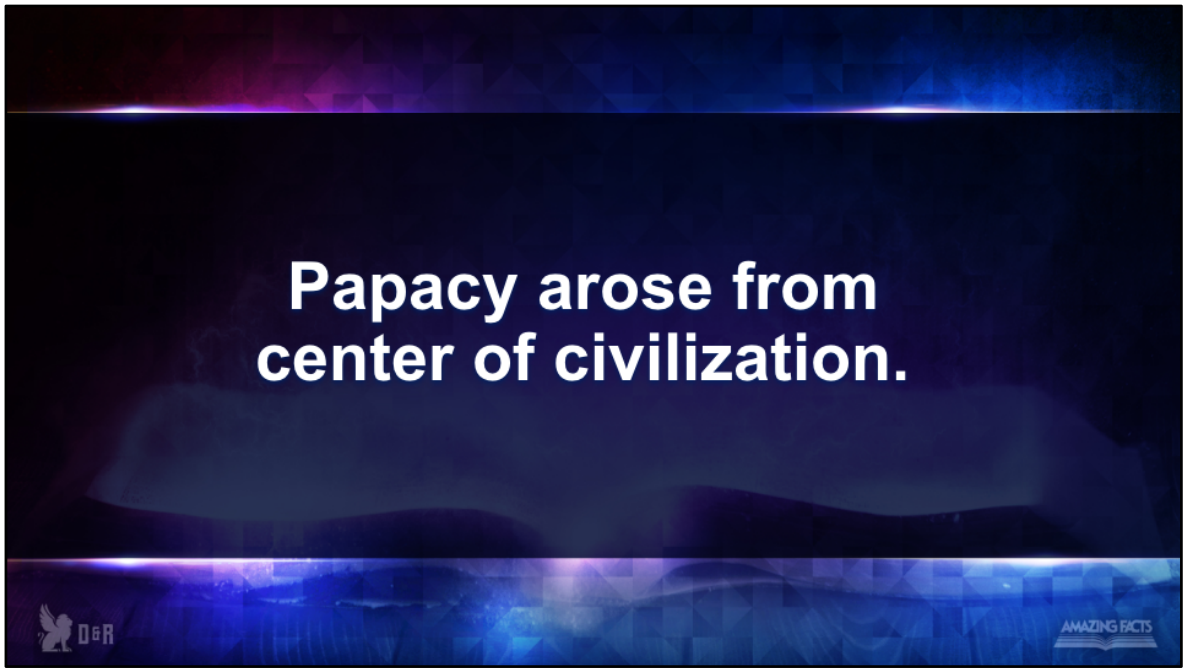


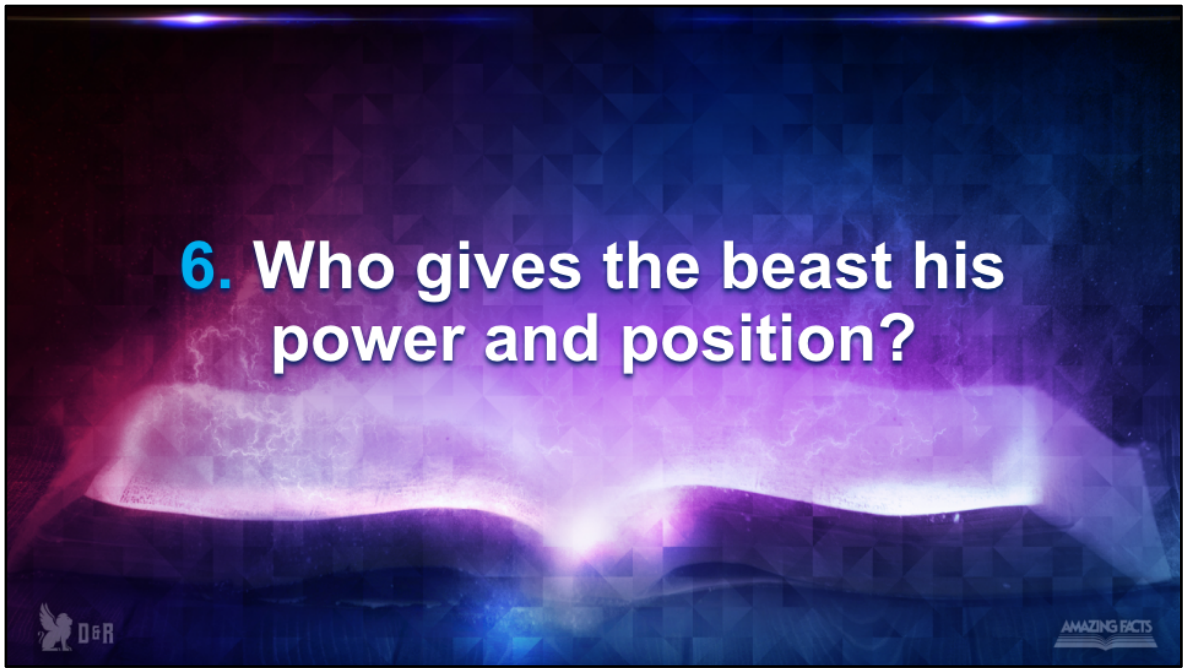
Only one power fits all 10 of these identifying marks--the papacy. But in order to be certain, we will carefully consider them one at a time, beginning with question 5.

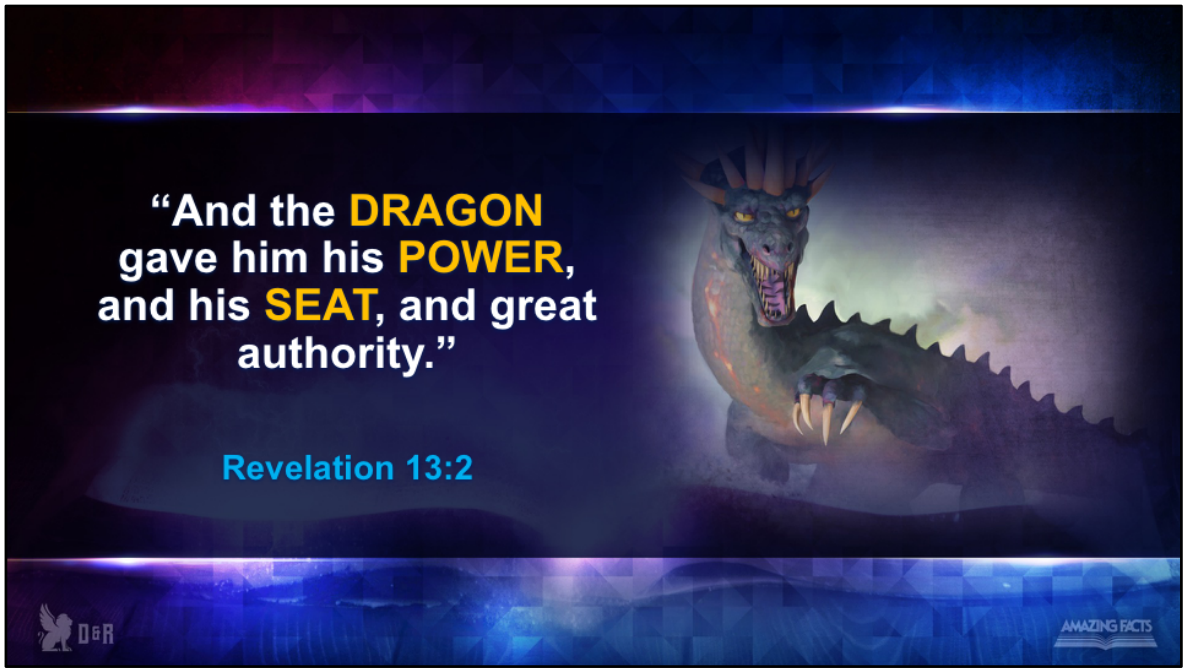

5. This beast arises from the sea. What does the sea, or water, symbolize?
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NOTE:
In prophecy, water represents great multitudes of people, or heavily populated areas. Prophecy predicted that the beast would arise from amid the established nations of the then-known world. The papacy arose in western Europe, so it fits Point 1. But what about the other nine identifying points?

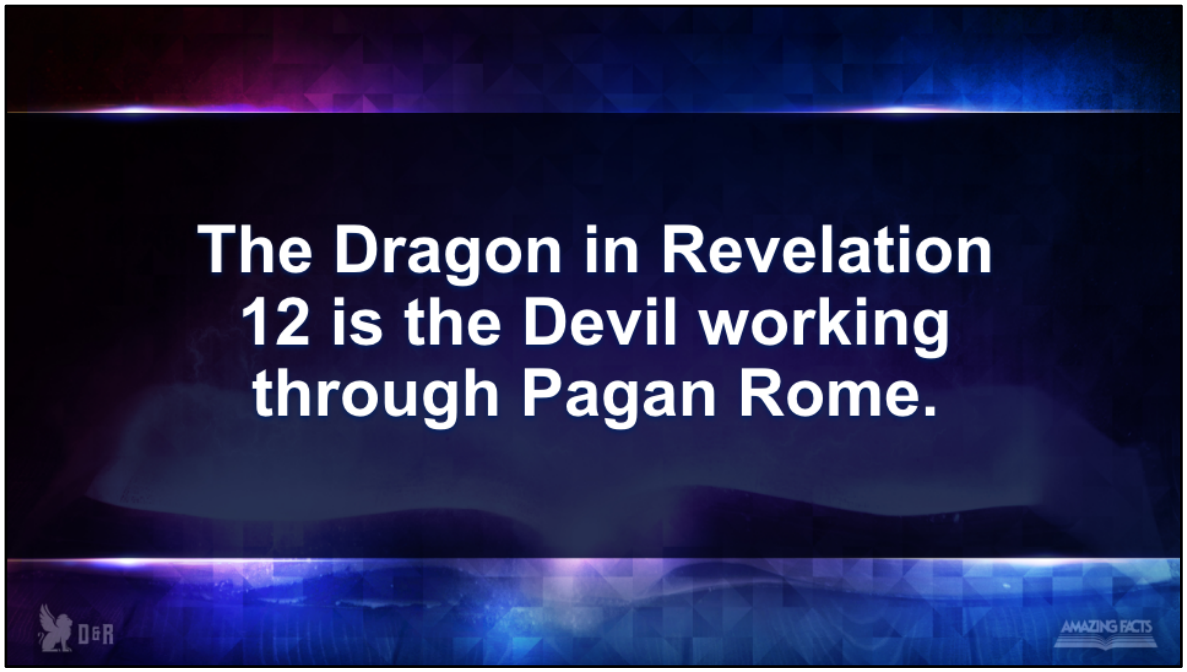

Papacy arose from
center of civilization.
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6. Who gives the beast his power and position?
D&R
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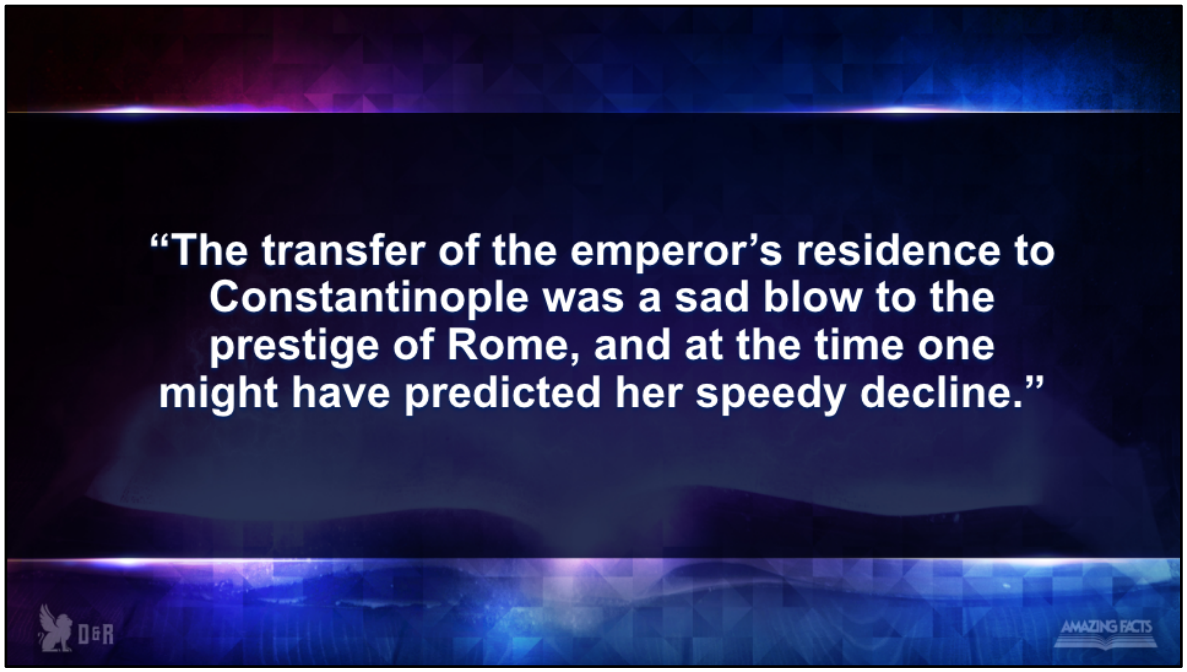


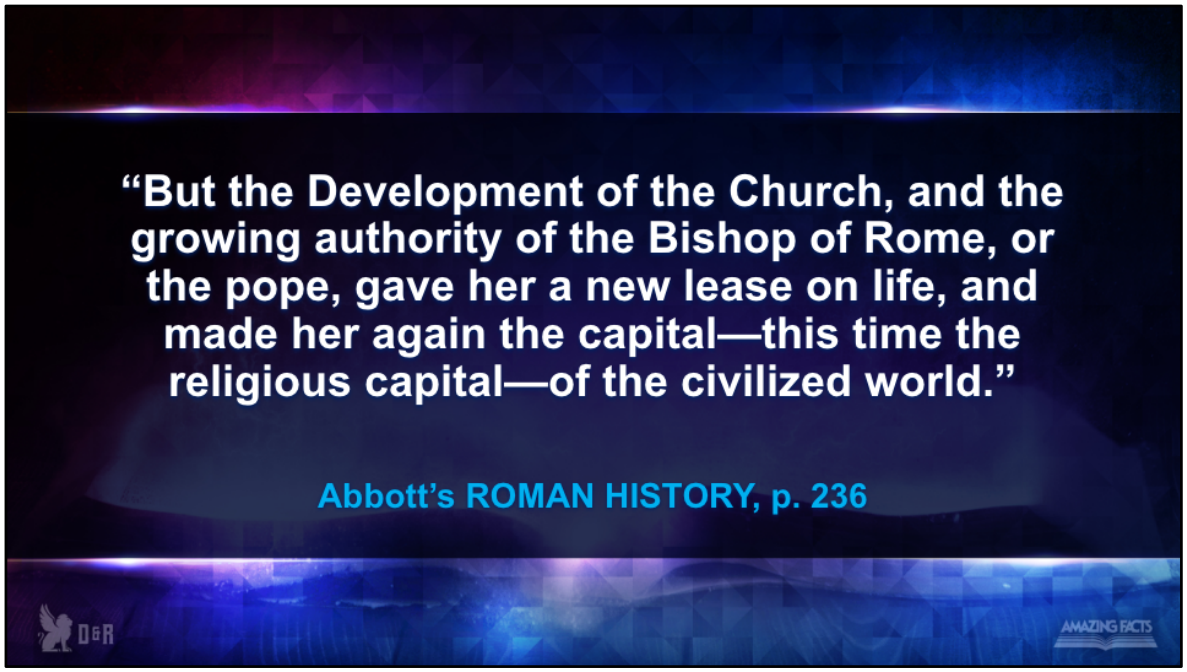
NOTE:
The beast--which has a mark that we must avoid--obtained its power, authority, and capital city from the dragon. According to Revelation 12:3-5, the dragon is the power that sought to destroy the child Jesus at the time of His birth. It was Satan who inspired Herod, a king for the pagan Roman empire, to slay all the male babies in Bethlehem (Matthew 2:13, 16). To whom did pagan Rome give her authority and capital city? History is clear that pagan Rome turned over its power and capital city to the church of Rome. The following historical quote is typical: "The Roman church ... pushed itself into the place of the Roman World-Empire, of which it is the actual continuation. ... The Pope, who calls himself 'King' and 'Pontifex Maximus,' is Caesar's successor." So Point 2 fits the papacy, as well.*

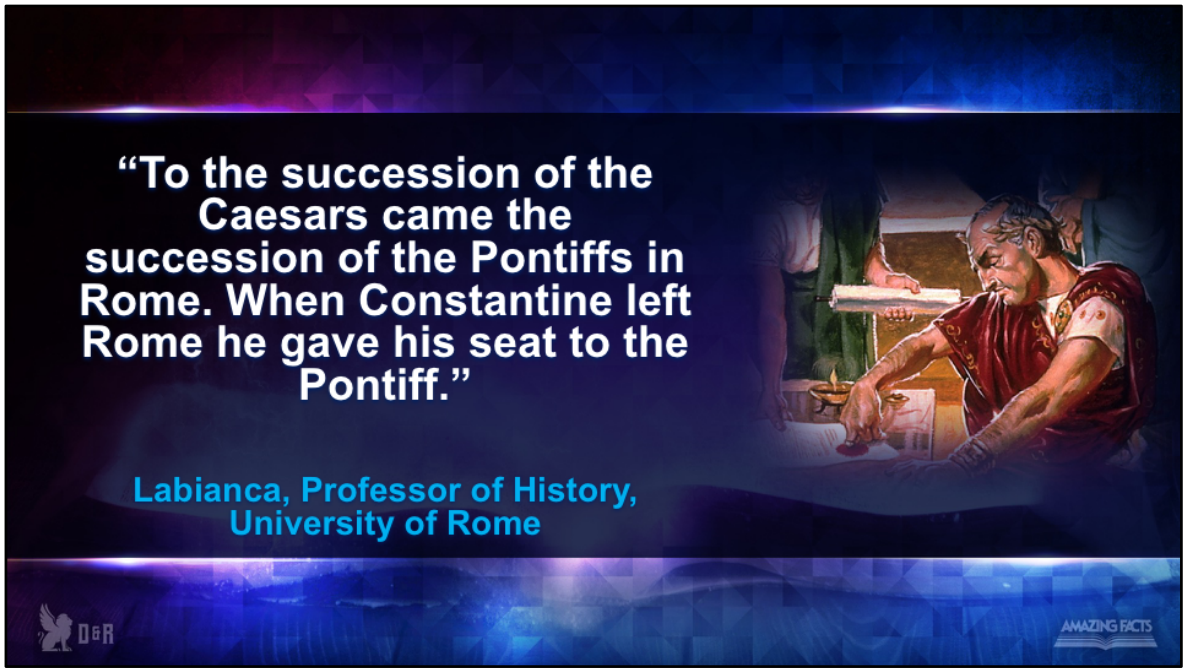
**Adolph Harnack, What Is Christianity? (New York: Putnam, second edition, revised, 1901), p. 270.*


The Dragon in Revelation 12 is the Devil working through Pagan Rome.
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Clue 1 – Dragon gave power, seat, and authority.
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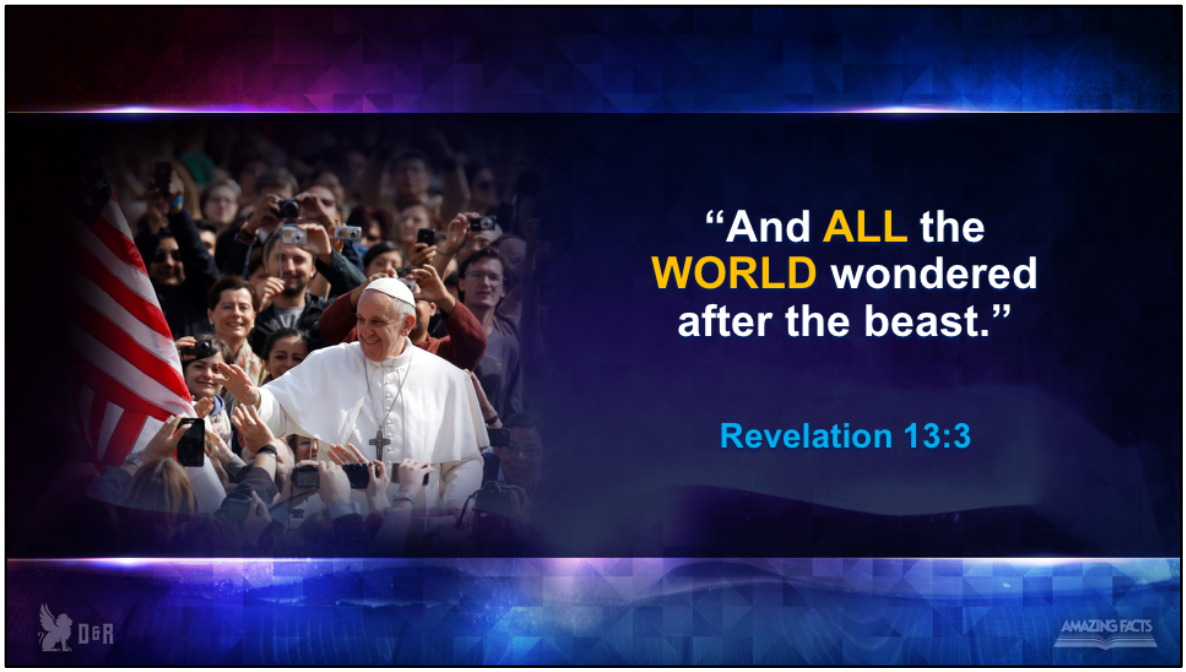

"The transfer of the emperor's residence to Constantinople was a sad blow to the prestige of Rome, and at the time one might have predicted her speedy decline."
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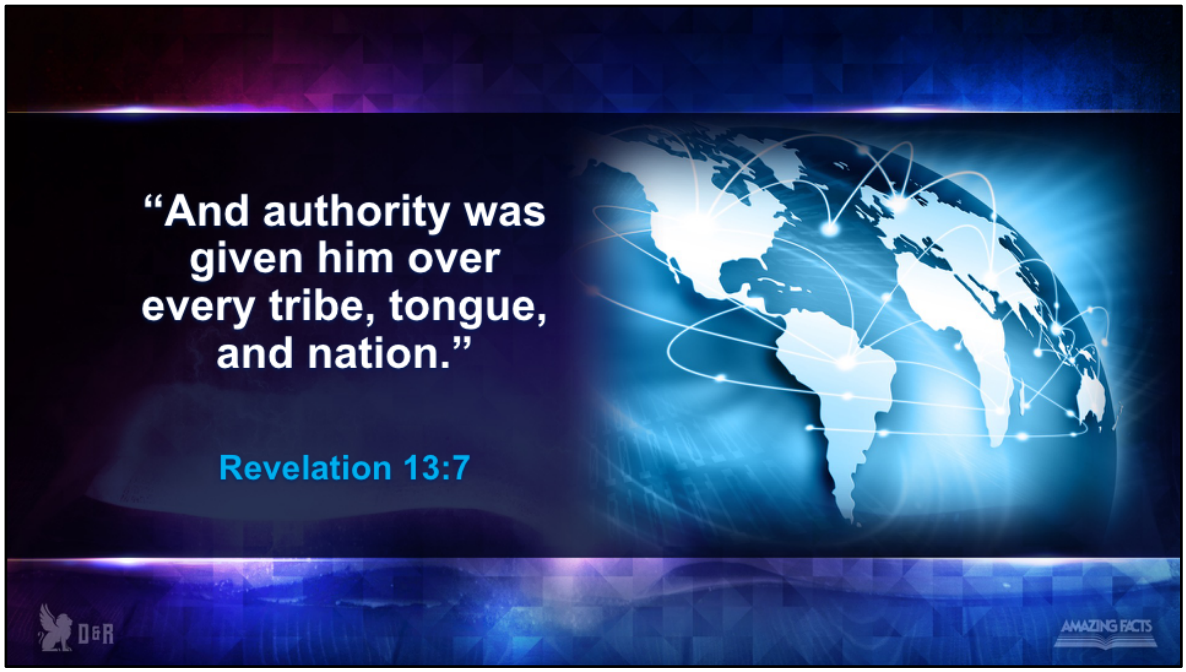

"But the Development of the Church, and the growing authority of the Bishop of Rome, or the pope, gave her a new lease on life, and made her again the capital—this time the religious capital—of the civilized world."
Abbott's ROMAN HISTORY, p. 236
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"To the succession of the Caesars came the succession of the Pontiffs in Rome. When Constantine left Rome he gave his seat to the Pontiff."
Labianca, Professor of History, University of Rome
D&R
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Beast receives power,
seat, and authority
from Rome.
D&R
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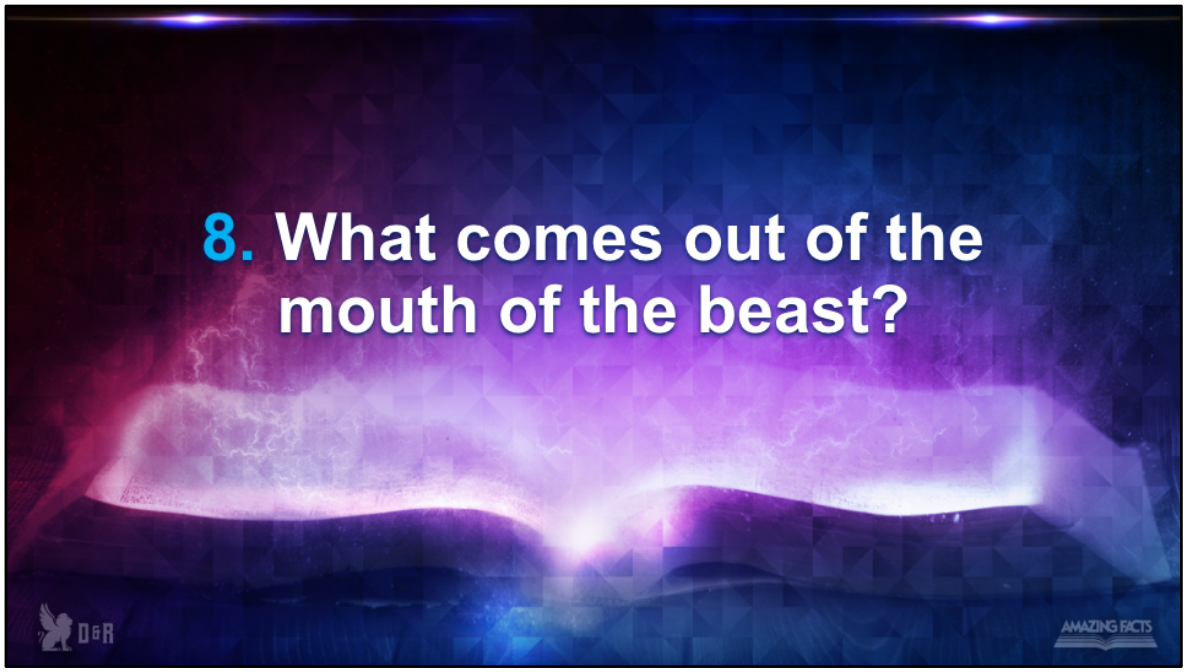

7. How far reaching is the influence of the beast?
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"And ALL the WORLD wondered after the beast."
Revelation 13:3
D&R
AMAZING FACTS

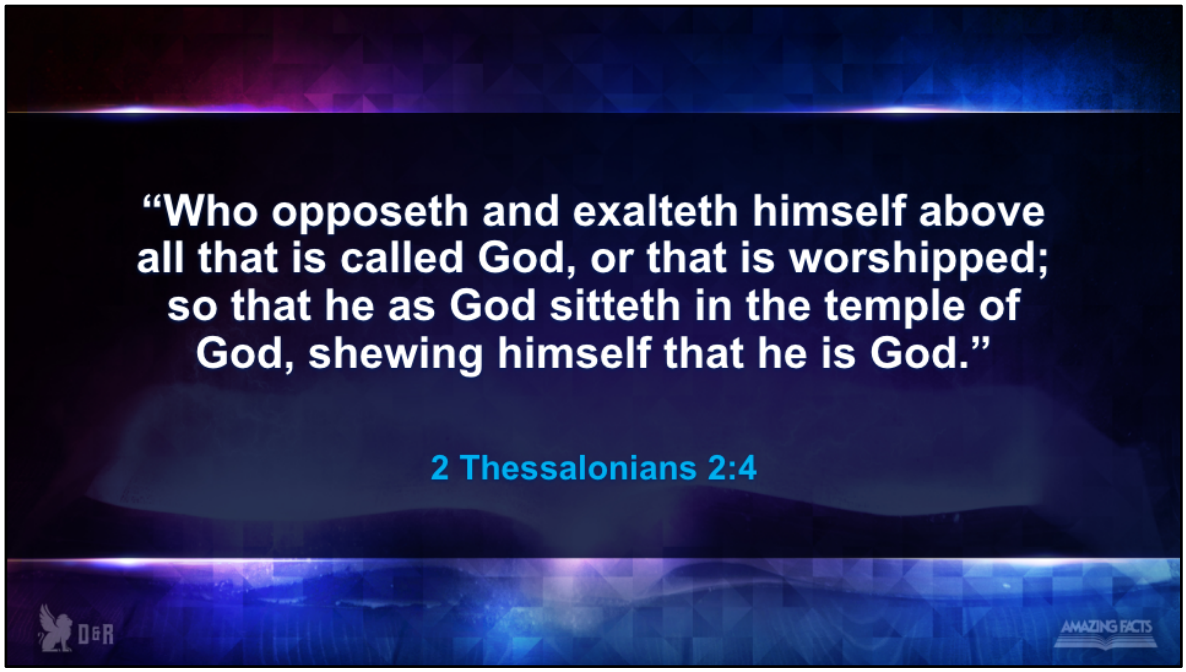

"And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation."
Revelation 13:7
D&R
AMAZING FACTS

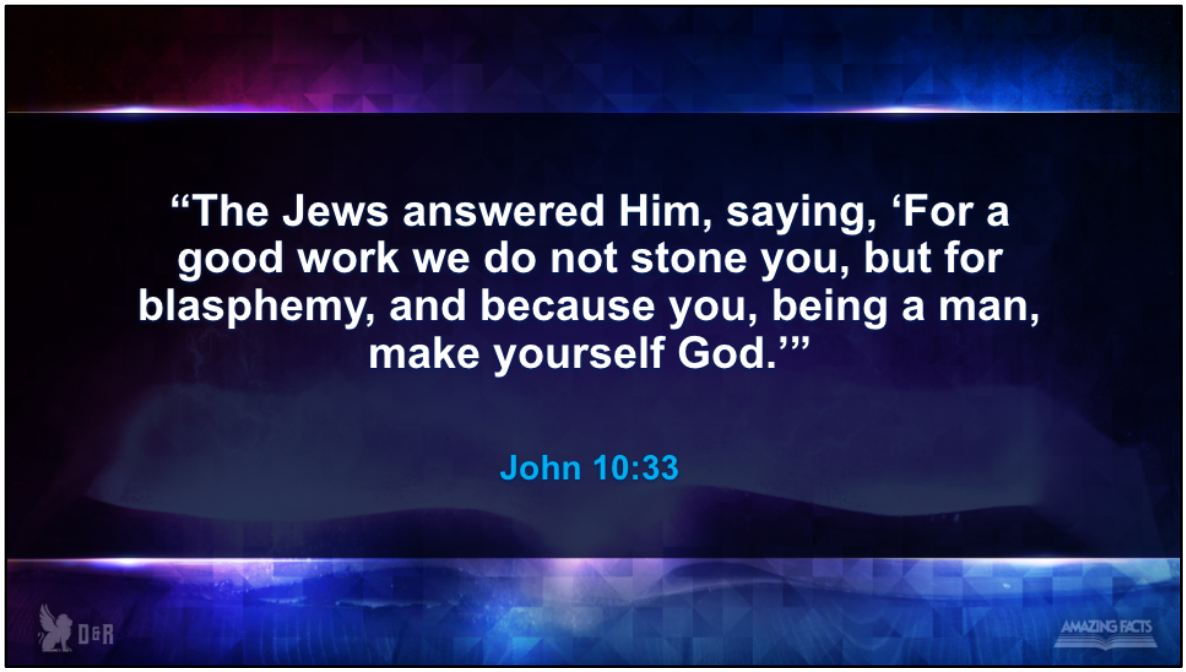


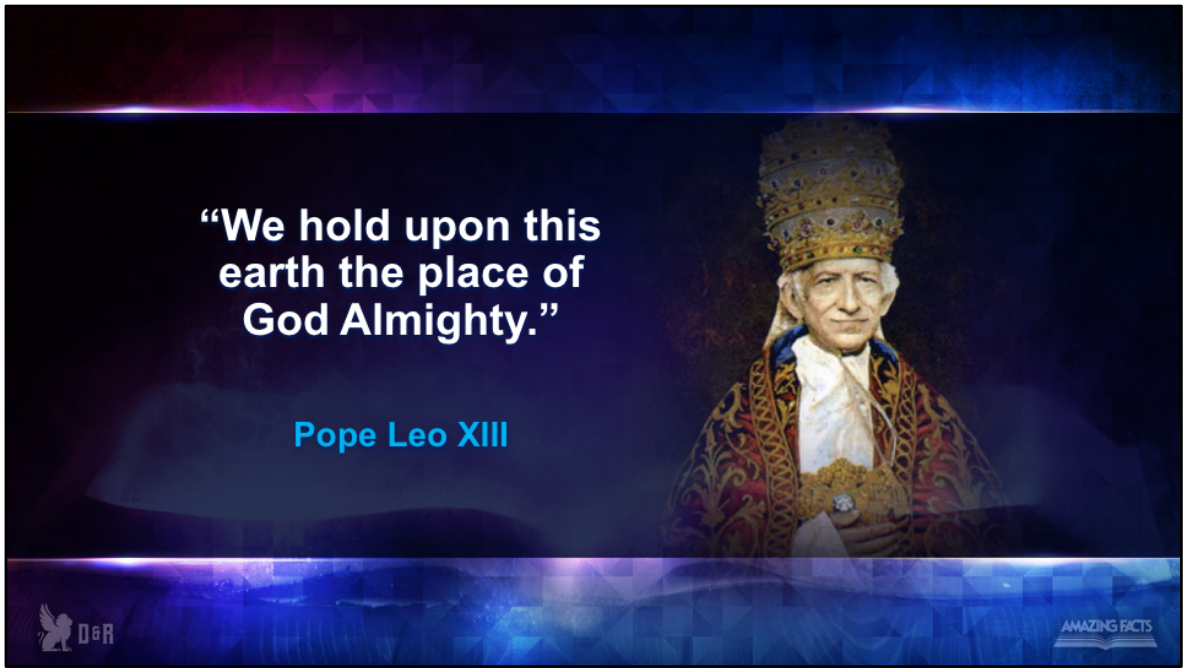
NOTE:
No one would question that during the Middle Ages, the papacy was indeed a worldwide power. In fact, the word "catholic" means "universal." We can see that Point 3 also fits the papacy.

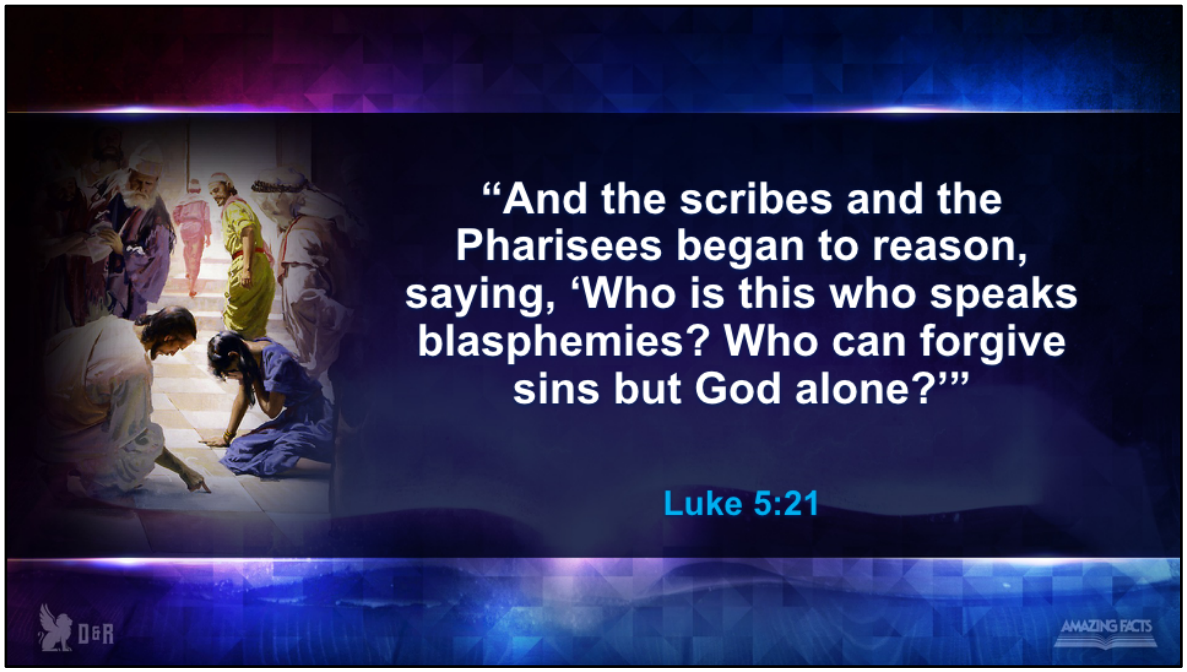

8. What comes out of the mouth of the beast?
D&R
AMAZING FACTS

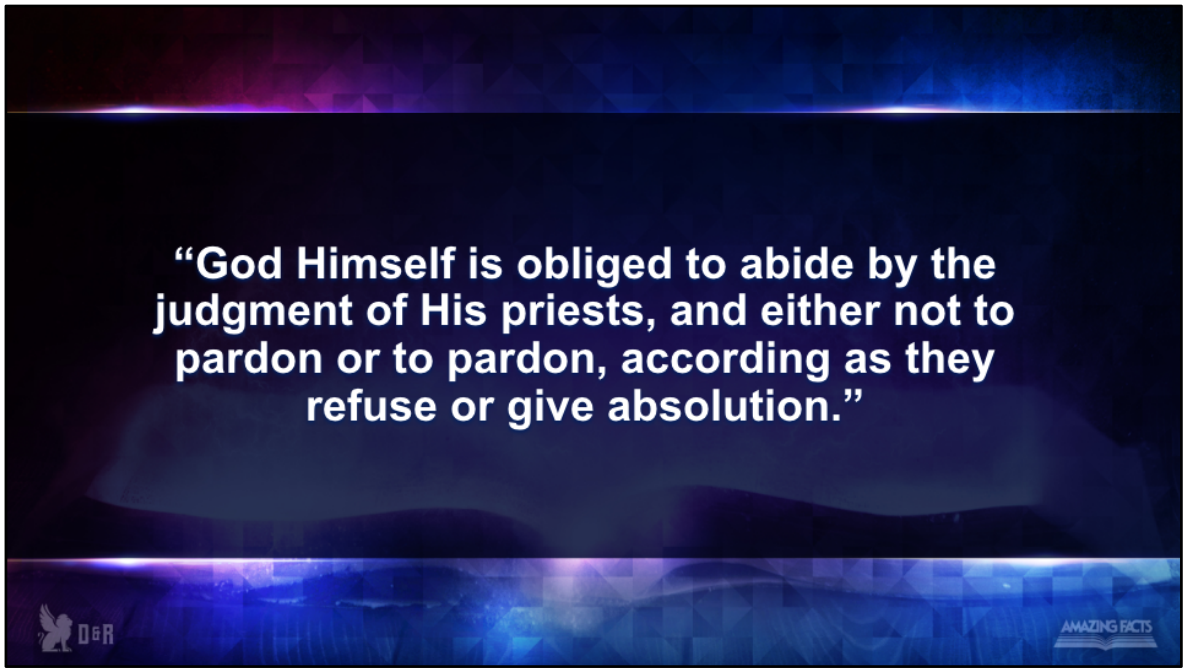

"And he opened his mouth in BLASPHEMY against God, to BLASPHEME His name."
Revelation 13:6
D&R
AMAZING FACTS

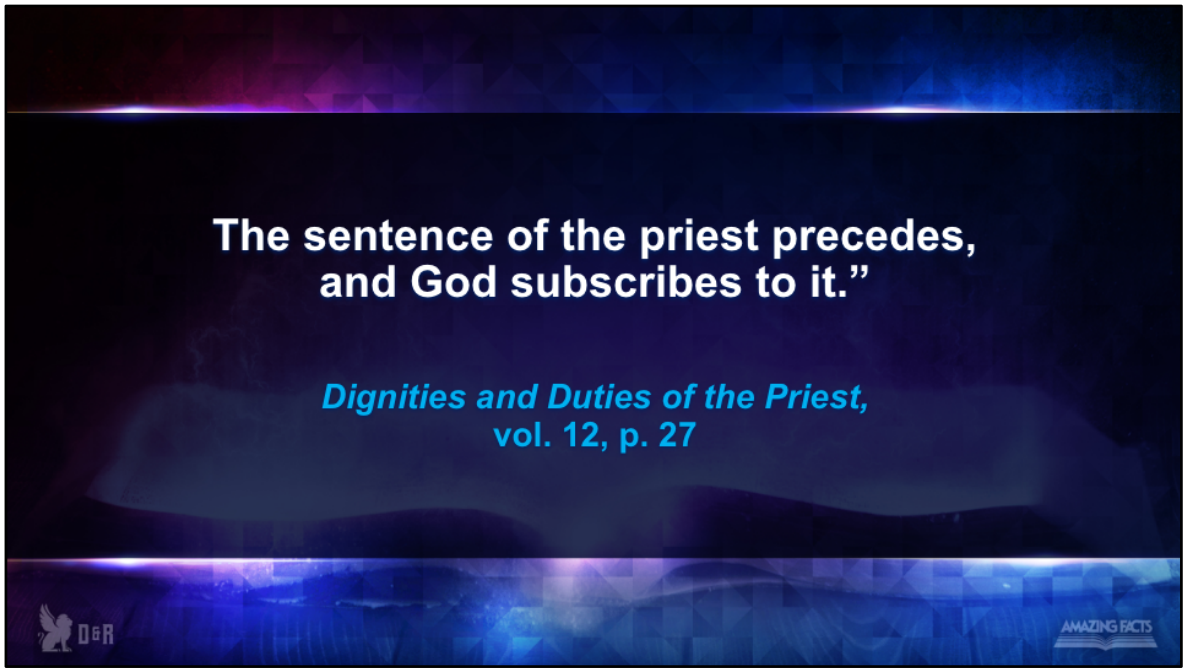

"Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God."
2 Thessalonians 2:4
D&R
AMAZING FACTS


“The Jews answered Him, saying, ‘For a good work we do not stone you, but for blasphemy, and because you, being a man, make yourself God.’”
John 10:33
D&R
AMAZING FACTS


"We hold upon this earth the place of God Almighty."
Pope Leo XIII
D&R
AMAZING FACTS


"And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, 'Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?'"
Luke 5:21
D&R
AMAZING FACTS


"God Himself is obliged to abide by the judgment of His priests, and either not to pardon or to pardon, according as they refuse or give absolution."
D&R
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NOTE:
The Bible defines blasphemy as man claiming to forgive sins (Luke 5:21) and claiming to be God (John 10:33). The papacy boldly claims the power to forgive sins. Notice the following section from a Catholic catechism: "Does the Priest truly forgive the sins, or does he only declare that they are remitted? The Priest does really and truly forgive the sins in virtue of the power given to him by Christ."[1]

The papacy also claims that the pope is equal with God. Pope Leo XIII said, "We [the popes] hold upon this earth the place of God Almighty."[2] Here is another startling statement about the pope: "Thou art another God on earth."[3] So Point 4 also fits the papacy.

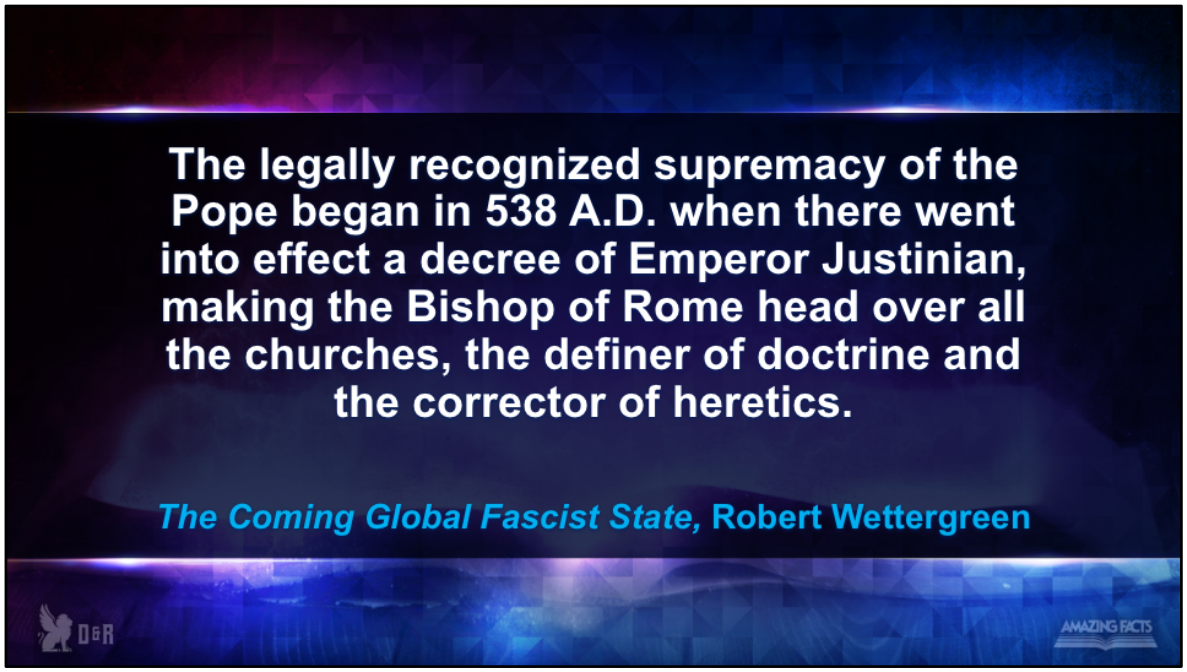
[1]Joseph Deharbe, S.J., A Complete Catechism of the Catholic Religion (New York: Schwartz, Kirwin & Fauss, 1924), p. 279.

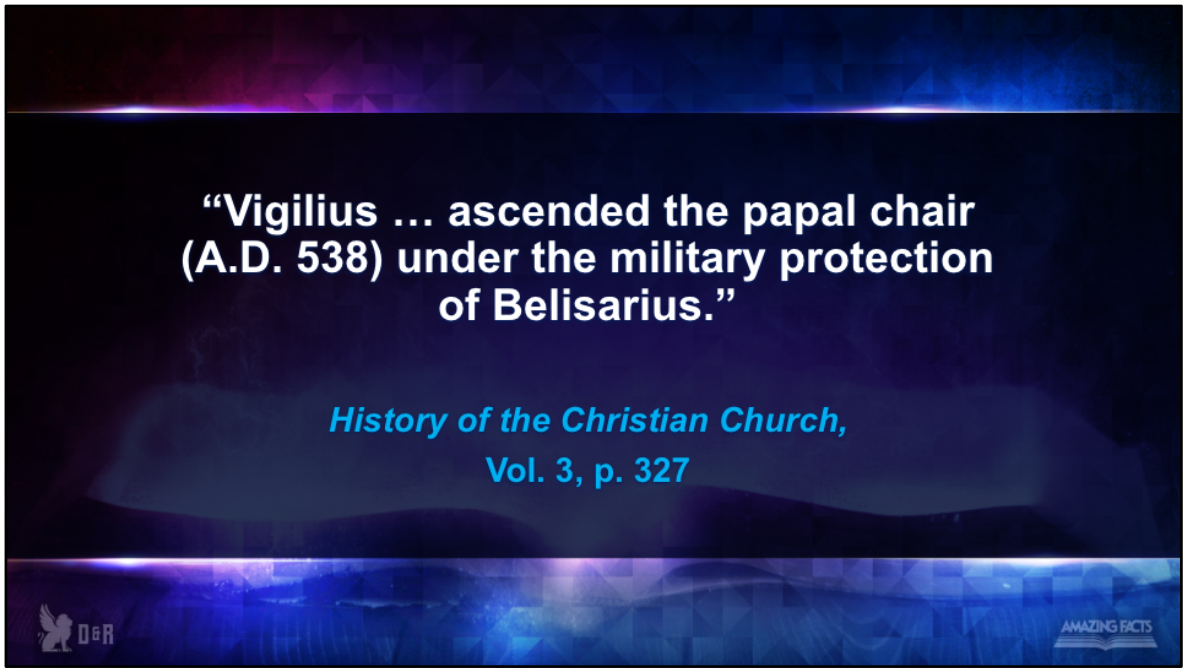
[2]Christopher Marcellus, Oration in the Fifth Lateran Council, Session IV (1512), manuscript SC, Vol. 32, col. 761 (Latin).

[3]Pope Leo XIII, Encyclical Letter "The Reunion of Christendom," dated June 20, 1894, trans. in The Great Encyclical letters of Pope Leo XIII (New York: Benziger, 1903), p. 304.

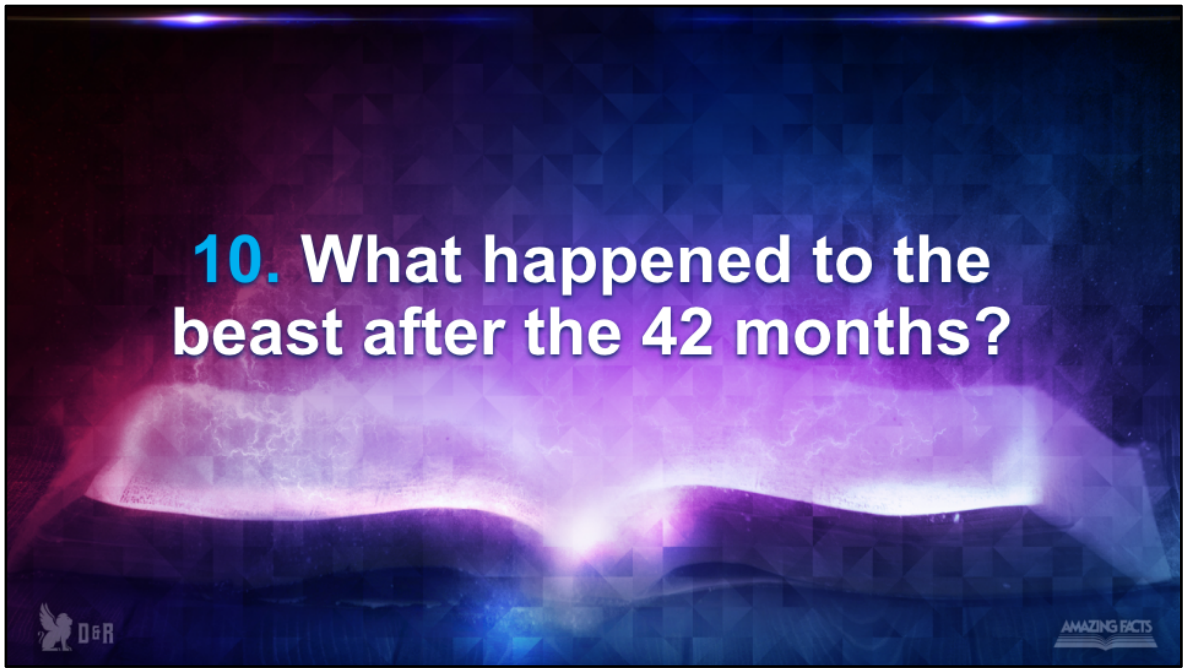

9. How long would this first beast rule?
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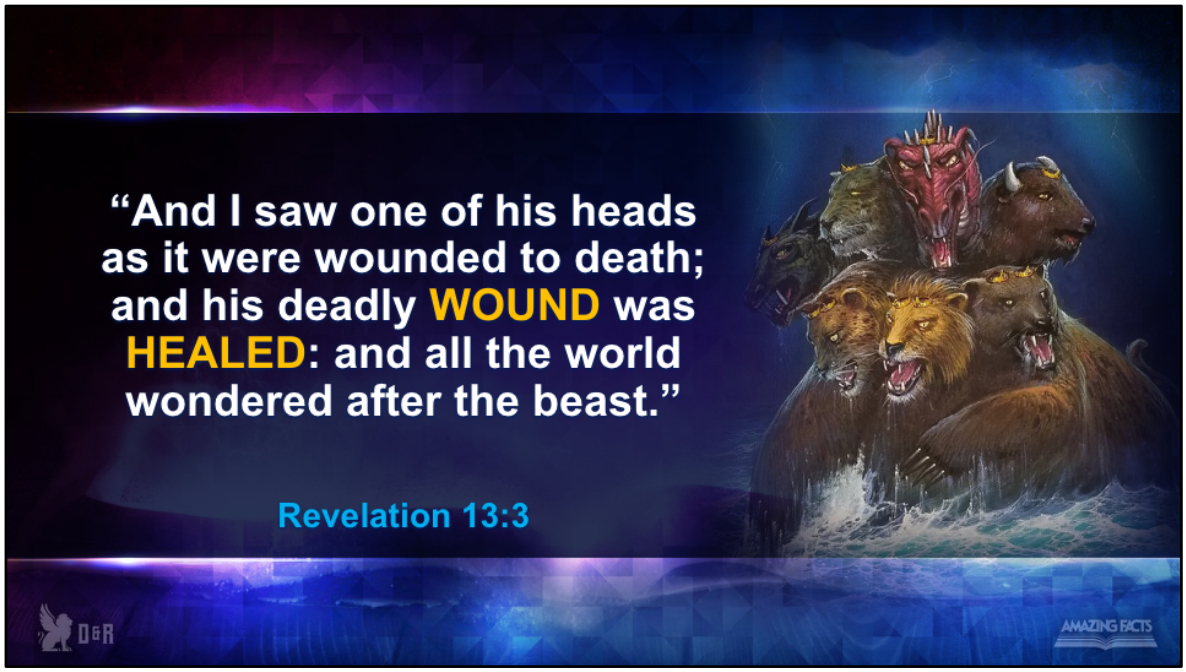

"And power was given unto him to continue FORTY and TWO MONTHS."
Revelation 13:5
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The legally recognized supremacy of the Pope began in 538 A.D. when there went into effect a decree of Emperor Justinian, making the Bishop of Rome head over all the churches, the definer of doctrine and the corrector of heretics.
The Coming Global Fascist State, Robert Wettergreen
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NOTE:
Remember that in prophecy, one prophetic day equals one literal year (Ezekiel 4:6). This time period is repeatedly referred to in prophecy as three and a half years, 42 months, or 1,260 days. Based on the 30-day calendar used by the Jews, all three time periods total the same 1,260 prophetic days, or 1,260 literal years. The worldwide power of papal Rome became official in A.D. 538, when Emperor Justinian's decree making the papacy supreme was no longer opposed. The papacy was dealt what appeared to be a death blow in 1798 when the pope was captured by Napoleon's general, Alexander Berthier. You will notice that the time period between A.D. 538 and 1798 is precisely 1,260 years. Point 5 also fits the papacy.

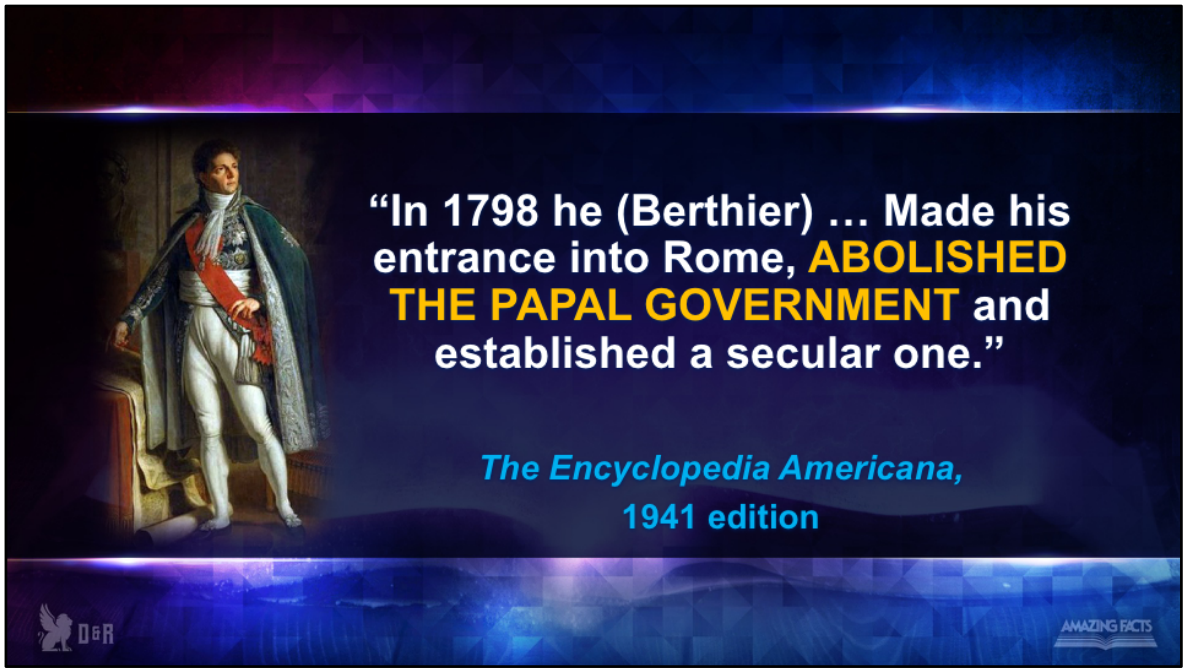

10. What happened to the beast after the 42 months?
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"And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly WOUND was HEALED: and all the world wondered after the beast."
Revelation 13:3
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42 months = 1260 years
“I have given you a day for a year.”
Ezekiel 4:6
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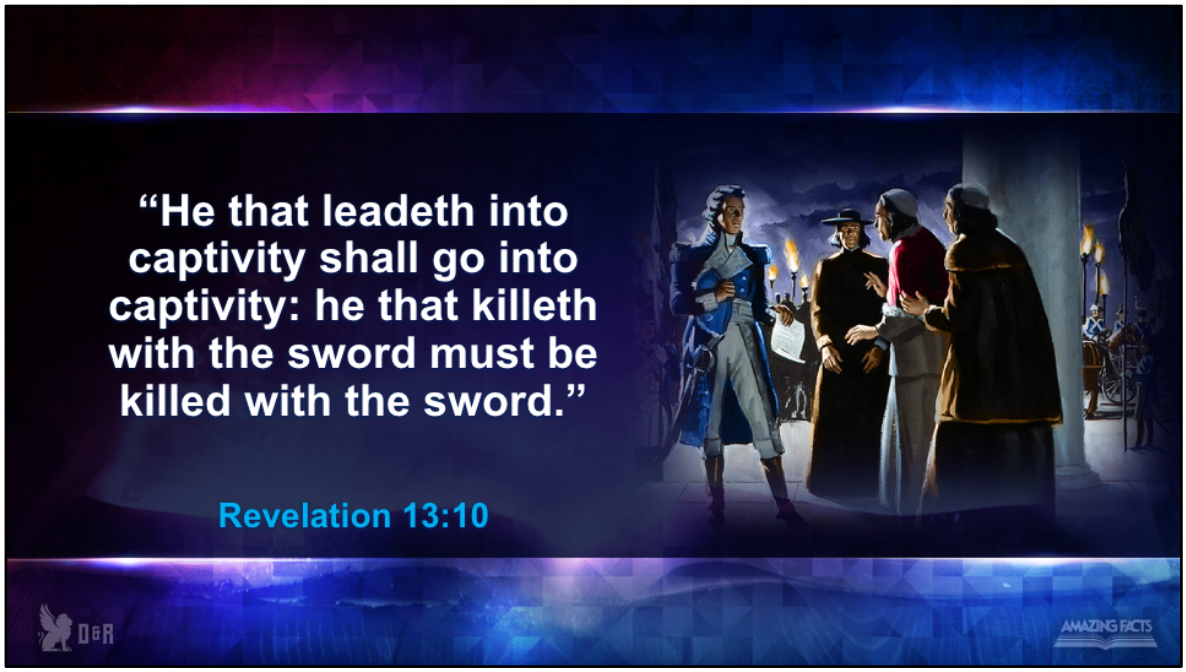
Notice the details in this chart.

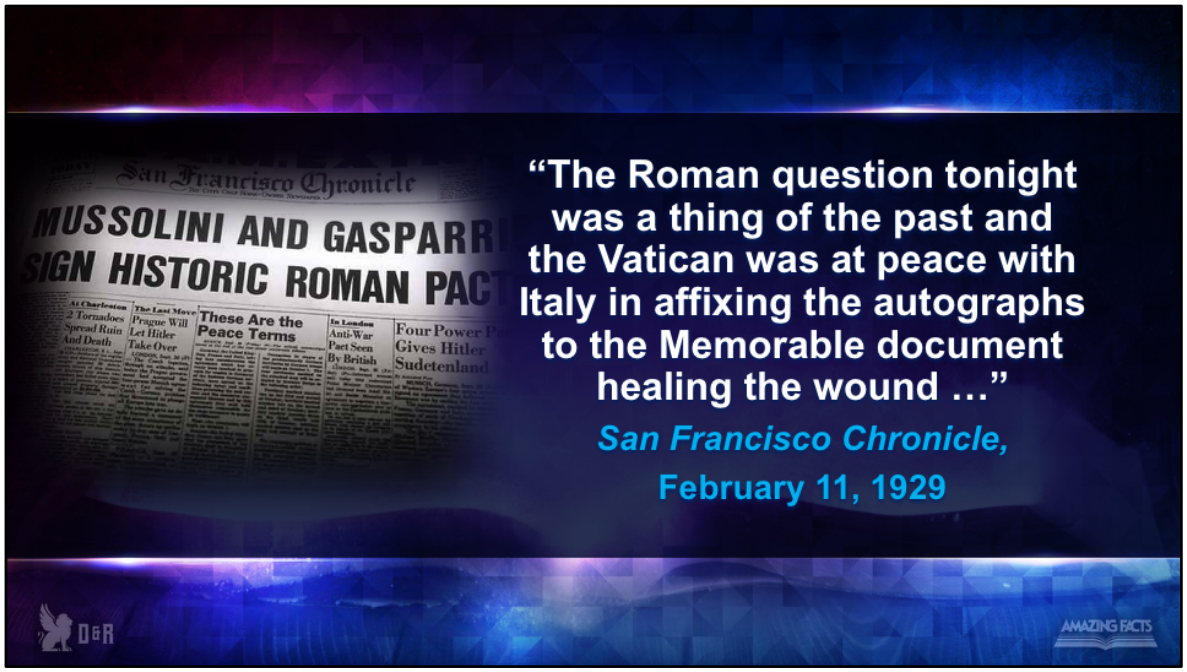


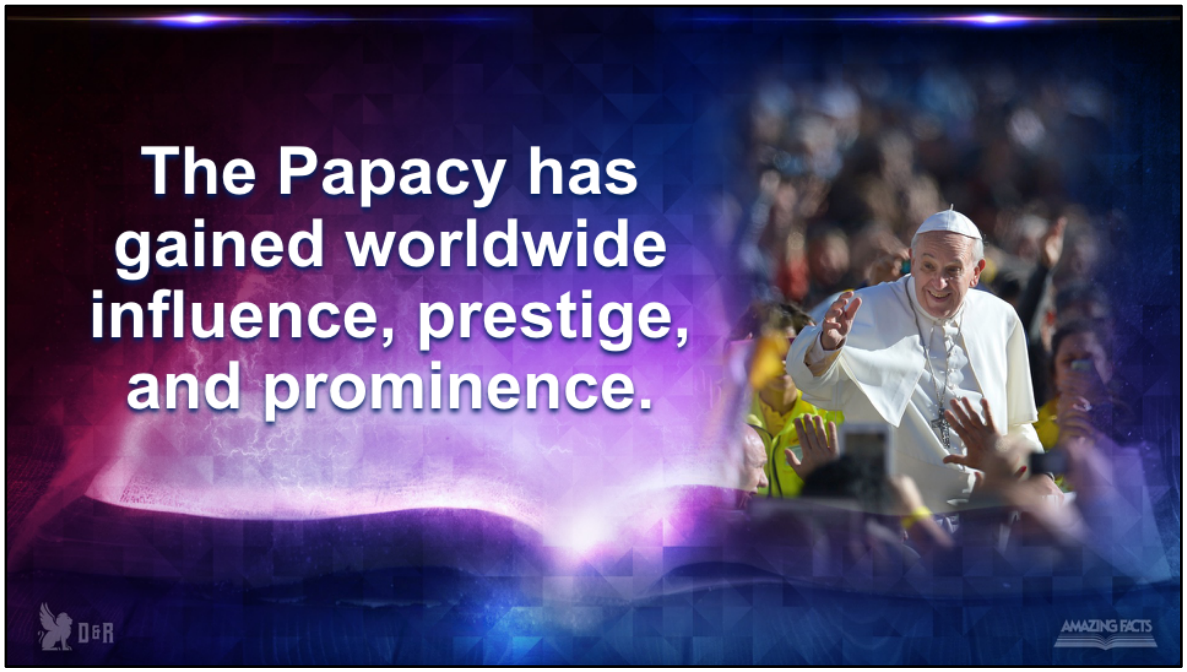
NOTE:
As already mentioned, the papacy received what appeared to be a deadly wound in 1798 when General Berthier took the pope captive to France, where he died in exile.[1] Half of Europe thought that this event signaled the end of the papacy, but God had said that the wound would be healed and that the papacy's power and influence would be restored until the entire world would follow her leading. Malachi Martin, consummate Vatican insider, reveals the following in his book The Keys of This Blood: "The pope is the best-known person of the 20th century (p. 123), has formed personal relationships with the leaders of 91 countries (p. 490), and is prepared for worldwide rule now" (p. 143).[2] Even a novice would recognize that today the papacy is, in many ways, the most influential power on earth. And with each trip the pope makes, his power and influence grow. Multiplied millions worldwide look to the papacy as the only hope for world unity, peace, and decency--precisely as God predicted. The papacy clearly fits Point 6.

[1]*Joseph Rickaby, "The Modern Papacy," Lectures on the History of Religion, (London: Catholic Truth Society, 1910), Vol. 3, Lecture 24, p. 1.*

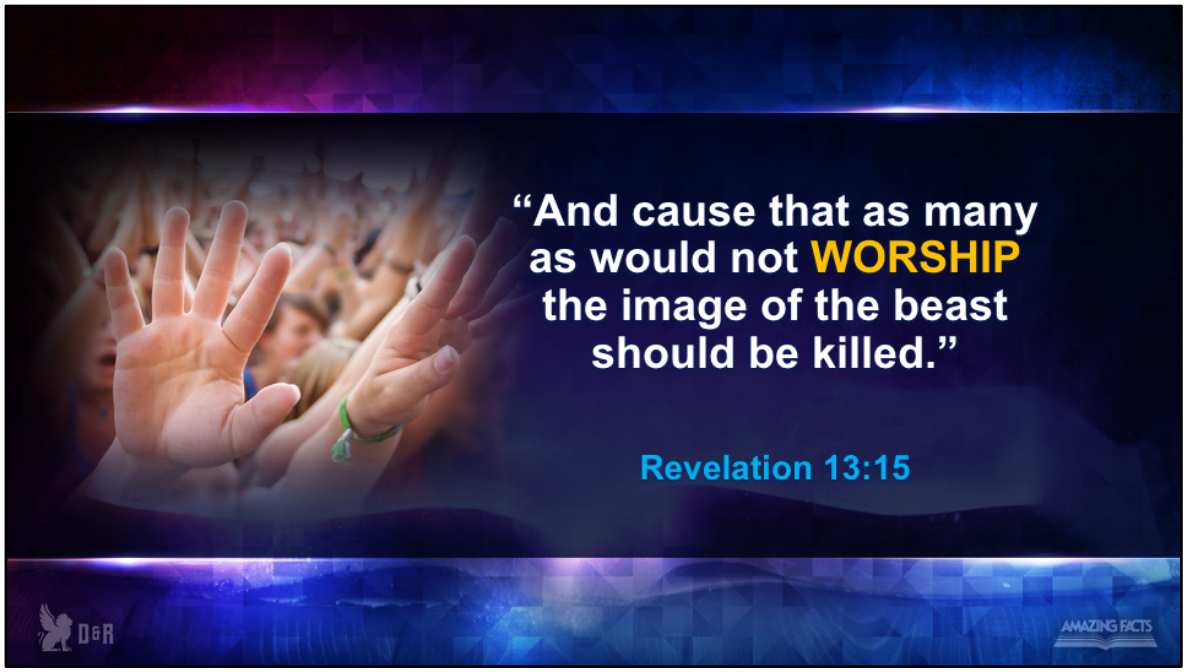
[2]*Malachi Martin, The Keys of This Blood (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1990).*


"He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword."
Revelation 13:10
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AMAZING FACTS

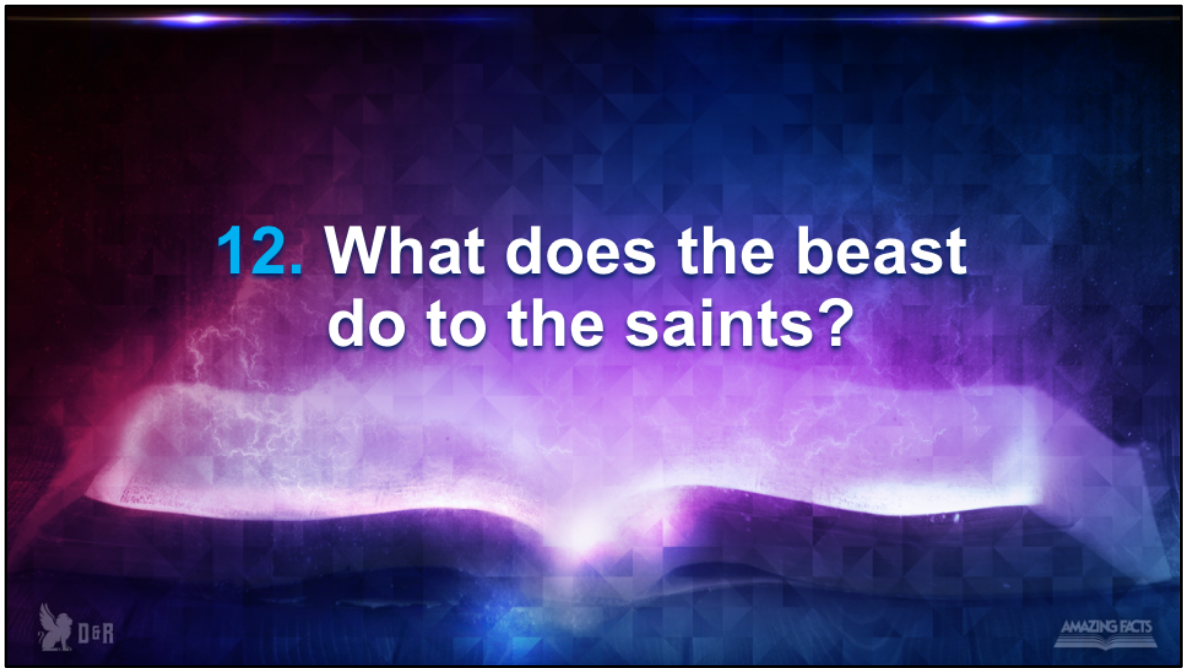

San Francisco Chronicle
MUSSOLINI AND GASPARR
SIGN HISTORIC ROMAN PAC
These Are the Peace Terms
"The Roman question tonight was a thing of the past and the Vatican was at peace with Italy in affixing the autographs to the Memorable document healing the wound …"
San Francisco Chronicle,
February 11, 1929
D&R
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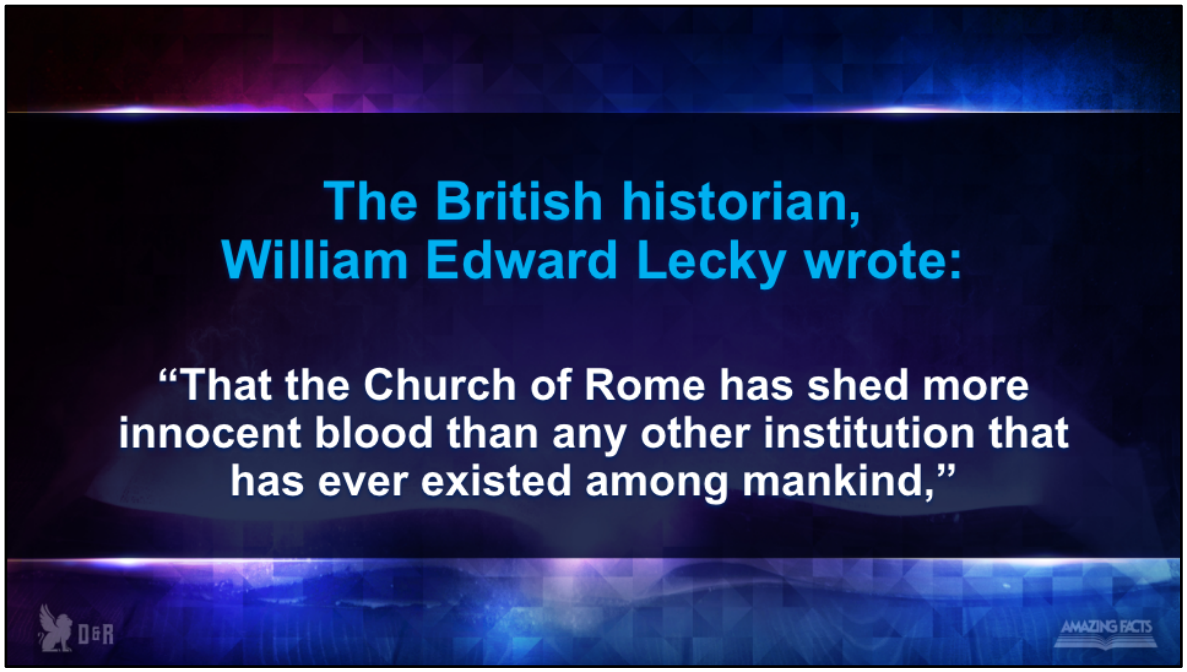

The Papacy has gained worldwide influence, prestige, and prominence.
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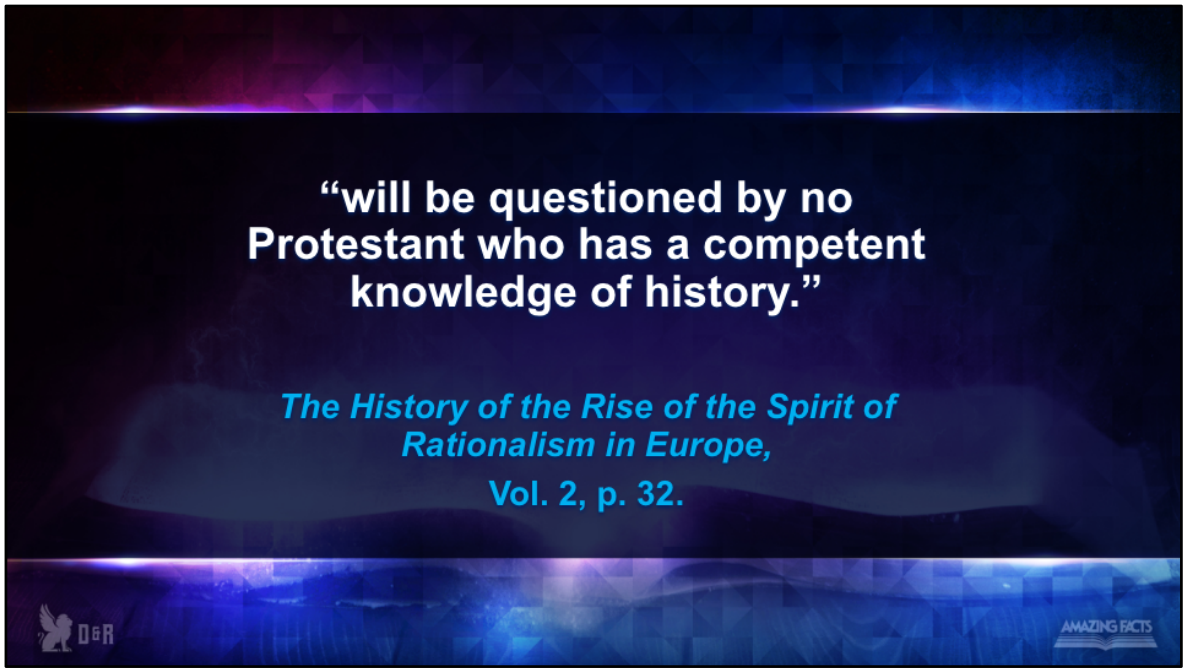

11. Is the beast a government
or a religious power?
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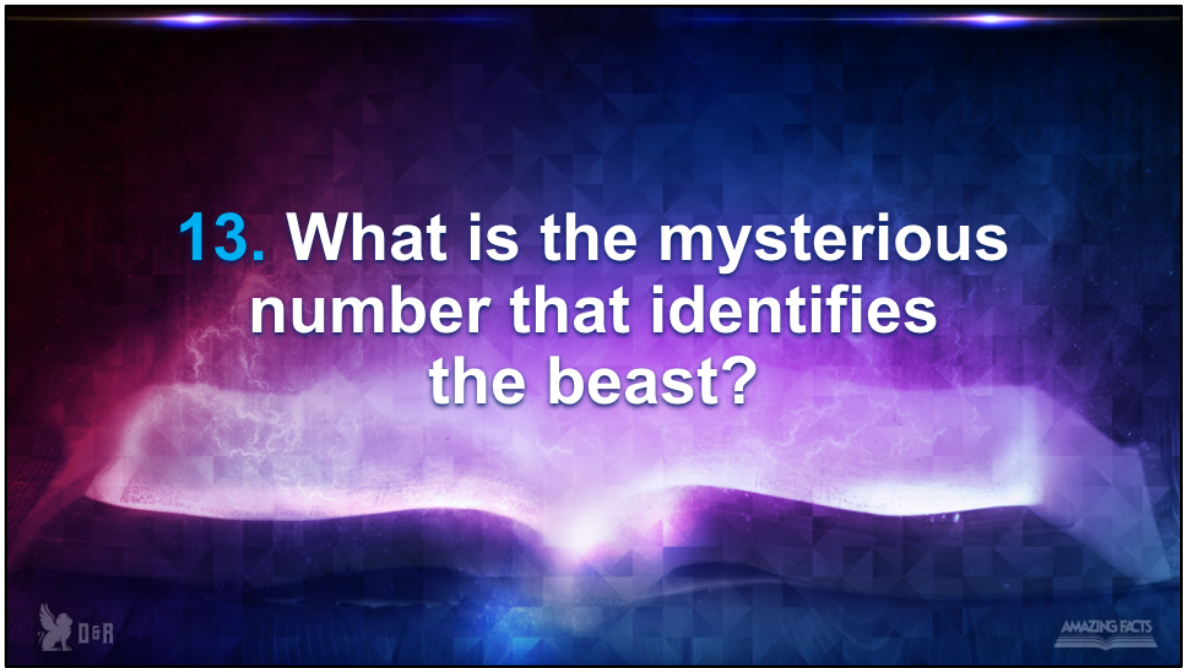
NOTE:
It is obvious that this entity would be involved in spiritual matters. The words "worship" or "worshiped" are used five times in Revelation 13 in reference to this power. Surely no one doubts that the papacy fits Point 7.

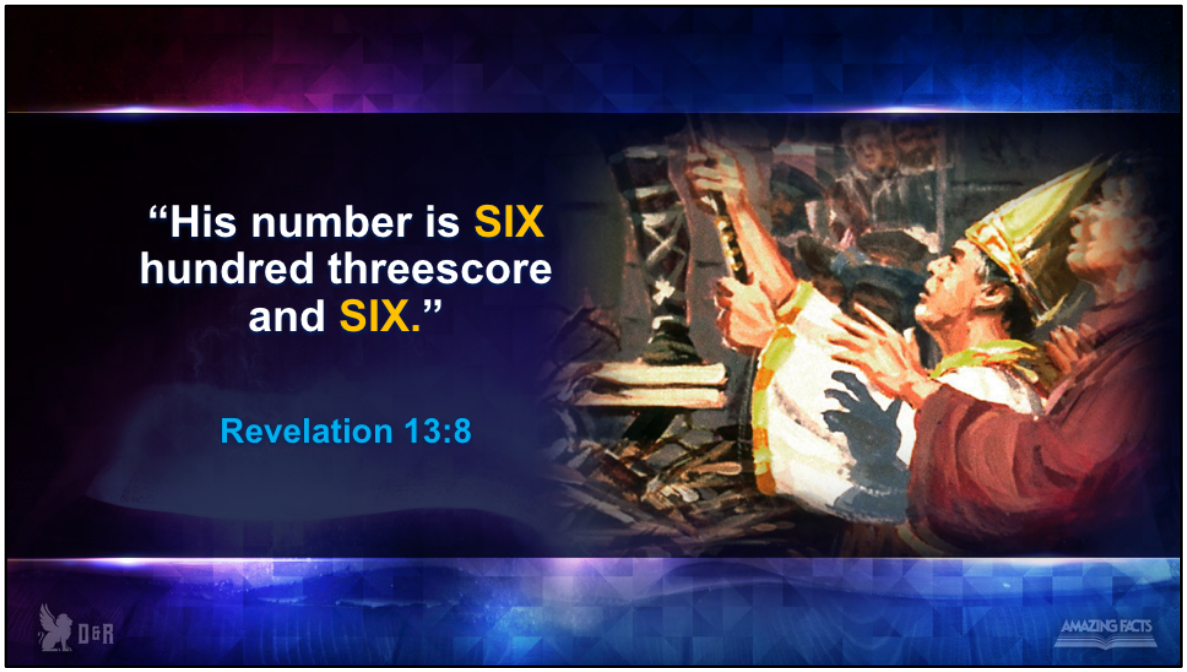

12. What does the beast do to the saints?
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The British historian,
William Edward Lecky wrote:
"That the Church of Rome has shed more innocent blood than any other institution that has ever existed among mankind,"
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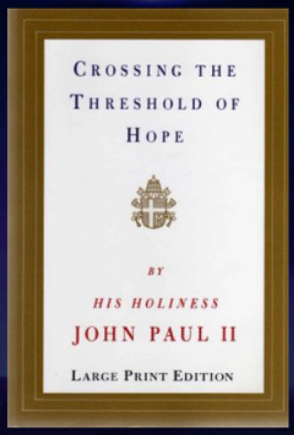


NOTE:
It is common knowledge that the papacy did persecute and destroy conscientious Christians, especially during the Middle Ages, the peak period of its control. Many historians say that more than 50 million people died for their faith during this period of great tribulation. Apparently the church felt it was doing God a favor by stamping out "heresy." The pope has asked that the church be forgiven for its atrocities, but the fact remains that it did persecute and destroy. The papacy fits Point 8 also.

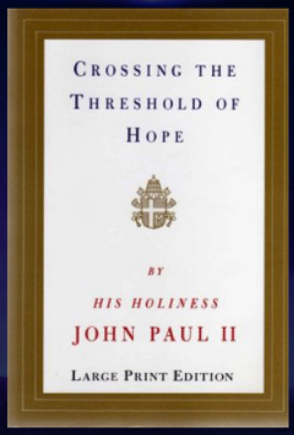

13. What is the mysterious number that identifies the beast?
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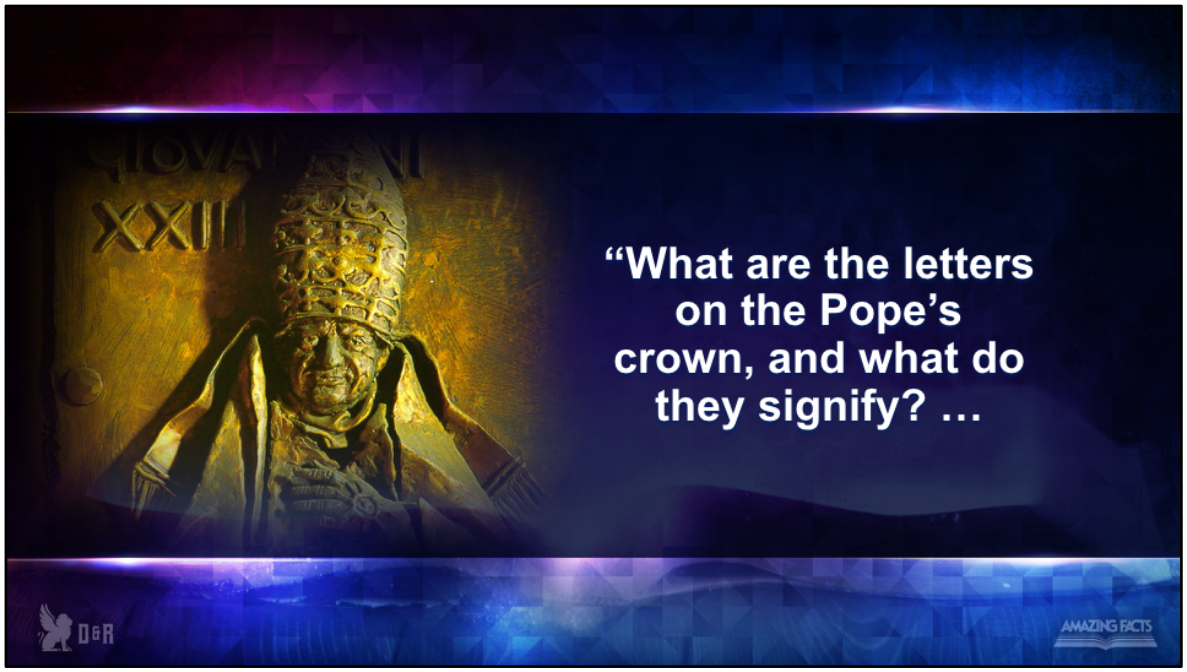

"His number is SIX hundred threescore and SIX."
Revelation 13:8
D&R
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Confronted with the Pope, one must make a choice. The leader of the Catholic Church is defined by the faith as the Vicar of Jesus Christ (and is accepted as such by believers).



The Pope is considered the man on earth who represents the Son of God, who "takes the place" of the Second Person of the omnipotent God of the Trinity.




XXIII
"What are the letters on the Pope's crown, and what do they signify? …
D&R
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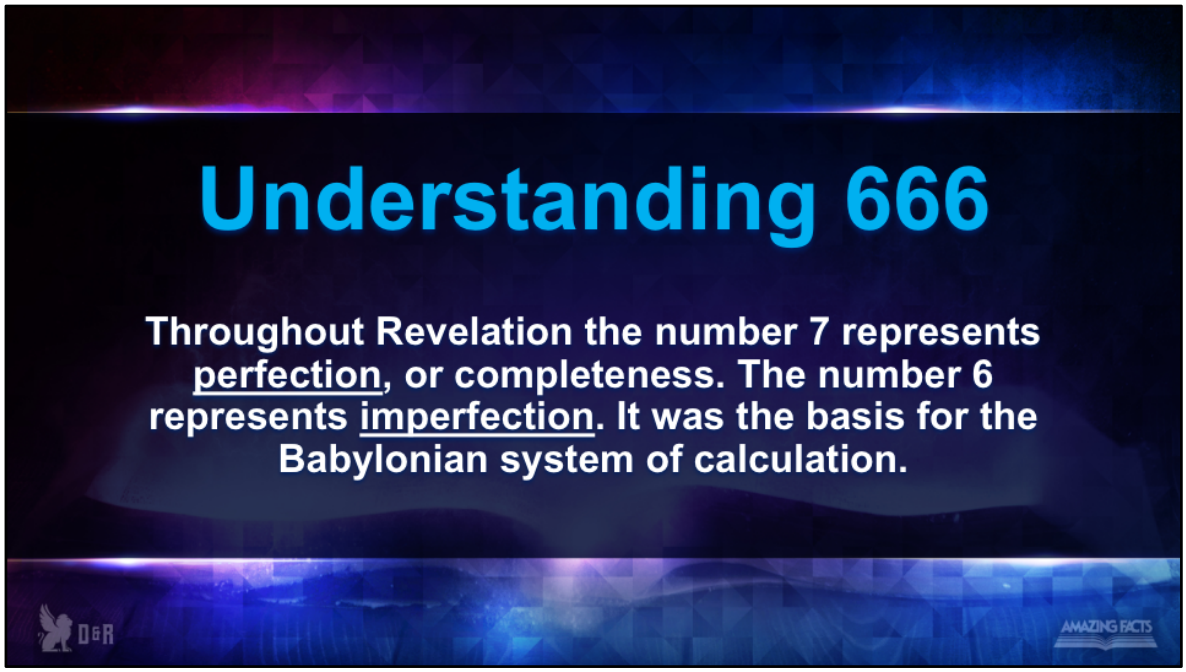
The letters on the Pope's crown are these: Vicarius Filii Dei: Which is Latin for 'Vicar of the Son of God.'"

Our Sunday Visitor,
April 18, 1915





NOTE:
In Revelation 13:18, God says to count the number of the beast's name and that it is the number of a man. When we think of the papacy, the man we naturally think of is the pope. What is his name? One of the pope's official titles is "Vicar of the Son of God," which is "Vicarius Filii Dei" in Latin (the official language of the church). Newspaper articles, when referring to the pope as "Vicar of Christ," will often enclose the words in quotation marks to show that they are a translation of his title, or name. The book of Revelation is saying that the Roman numeral value of the letters of his name will equal 666. Let's see whether or not Point 9 fits the papacy:



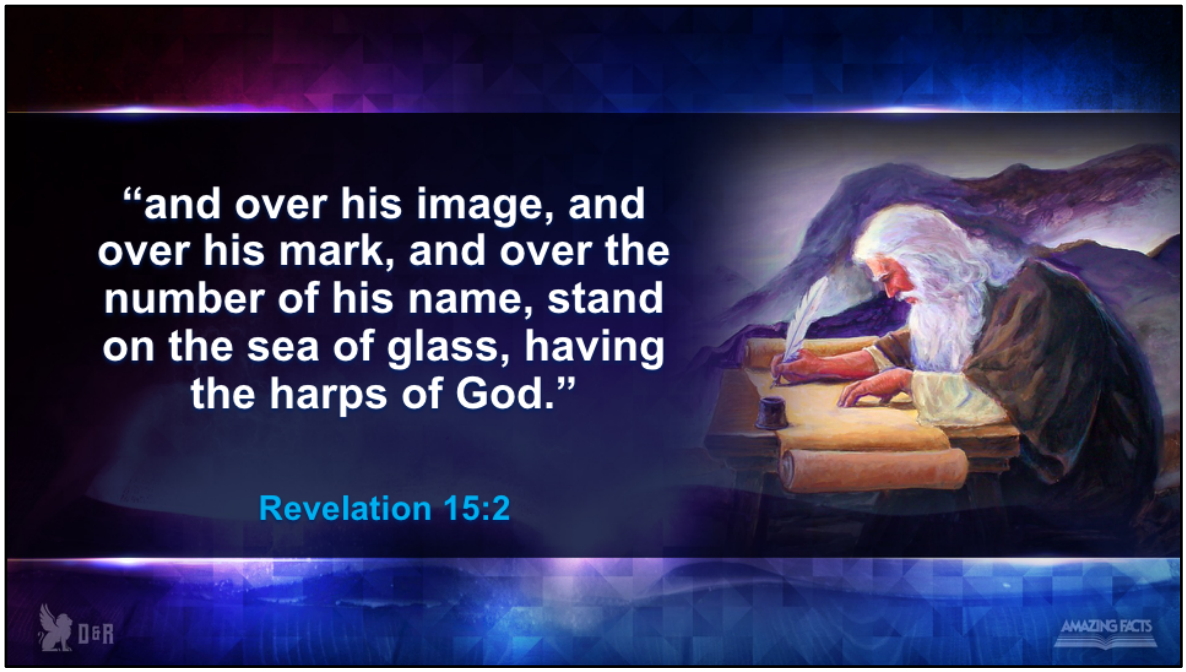
There should be no doubt remaining. We have shown that all 10 characteristics portrayed in Revelation 13:1-8, 15-18 fit the papacy. And this power has a specific mark that we dare not receive.

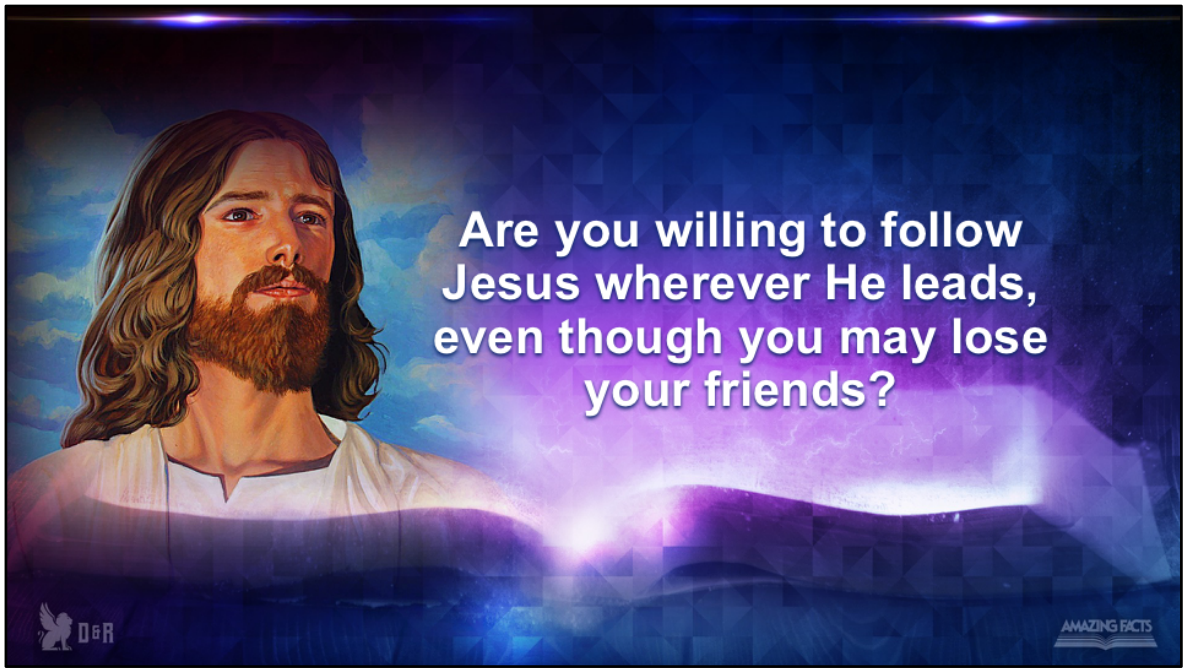
Now please note that there are many godly, loving Roman Catholic Christians whom God counts as His children. There have also been many gracious and courageous popes who loved God. This lesson is not an attack upon our Catholic friends. It is an attack upon the devil, who lures churches away from scriptural truth. However, God Himself has told us that this institution has a mark we dare not receive. Sincere Protestants, Catholics, Jews, and non-Christians will all be eager to discover what this mark is so they can avoid receiving it. Let's thank God that in His word He has exposed Satan's ugly plans to destroy us all.

In our next lesson, we will clearly identify the "mark" of the beast. If you receive the mark of the beast, you will be lost. Many will discover that avoiding the mark will involve a tremendous struggle. But God can give us the faith of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who were willing to face death in order to honor God.


14. Who will sing God's praises in heaven?
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"And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the VICTORY over the BEAST,"
Revelation 15:2
D&R
AMAZING FACTS


"and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God."
Revelation 15:2
D&R
AMAZING FACTS


Are you willing to follow Jesus wherever He leads, even though you may lose your friends?
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